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# THE TIMES

Haiti steps out of Papa Doc's shadow, page 16

## Ejection of pit productivity deal is blow to moderates

Workers' union delegates dealt a severe yesterday to hopes of containing pit by rejecting local productivity bargain schemes were seen by moderates as of lessening the impact of calls for big wage rises. Although the delegates endorsed a call for faceworkers £135 a week, they allowed leaders elbow-room in negotiating the rise.

## Call for large rises from November

gates rejected a Yorkshire move to substitute the word "demand" for the formula of "seek to achieve" in the moderate's successful resolution, which called for £135 a week for men at present earning £71. Mr Gormley said he was "damned disappointed" at the defeat of the productivity scheme. It might not now be possible to realize the £135-a-week target for faceworkers, which alone would cost the industry £200m a year and add about £10 to the cost of a ton of coal. He accused some coalfields of hypocrisy in voting against local incentives when they had made deals with bonus schemes in their own areas, and hinted that some highly productive, moderate areas might defy the national union and make area agreements. Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the coal board, reminded the delegates that the industry was committed under the terms of its tripartite plan for coal to introduce a workable productivity scheme; that responsibility would still have to be discharged. When and how, he could not say. On the pay claim, he said the board had had committed itself to the policy and would not ask to be released from the 12-month rule. The rule forbids any further rises, except through productivity bargaining, before next March. Mr Gormley viewed the outcome of the conference as a triumph for the moderate and the social contract as the best we could have got in the circumstances. As a Yorkshire miner, Mr Terry Fatchett, an underground colliery, made clear the difference between the wording of the moderates' pay resolution and the militants' was not unimportant: the left wants to compel the miners' leaders to win higher pay from the autumn, but the moderates are anxious not to embarrass the Government. That concern for the continued life of the Callaghan Administration was evident in a long speech made by Mr Lawrence Daly, the union's general secretary, who quoted from the Labour Party election manifesto of October, 1974, to drive home his message that the transition from capitalism to socialism would "not be painless". He predicted that the TUC and the Government would reach an understanding on pay in the next few weeks. TGMWU conference, page 2

## Liberals react sharply to NUM wages decision

Minister must now declare that the optimism underlying his recent statements and those of the Treasury depends on the satisfactory pay settlement for phase three. "Whatever may be the short term political interest of the Prime Minister and the Labour Party, the Liberal Party is not going to be satisfied with a pay explosion," he said. Mr Steel, the Liberal Leader, on hearing of the miners' vote, said: "We have the right to expect the Government to stand firm on behalf of us all against any greedy pressure group." Saffron Walden by-election, page 2

## British Steel Corporation

British Steel Corporation is losing £3m a but has been told by the Government there is no chance of its £950m cash being raised. In two weeks the BSC produces its 1976 report which is expected to show a £100m loss and a "poor market conditions" could lead to a loss this year of £150m-£200m. Page 19

## W Rhodesia party

breakaway Rhodesian Action Party launched in Salisbury with strong claims that it was a grouping of right extremists. Its leader, Mr Ian Smith, described it as a party of "extremes" but it is comprised mainly of expelled from the Rhodesian Front. Page 7

## Post Office suspends sorters over Grunwick

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

The danger of unofficial industrial action by postal workers increased yesterday after the Post Office had suspended 27 sorting office men for refusing to handle mail from Grunwick, the London film processing company.

Workers at Cricklewood sorting office in northwest London rejected an appeal from their union and voted 63 to 41 to continue the three-week ban on Grunwick mail.

Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, said he was "saddened" by the decision. But he added, the Post Office had given an assurance that when the main body of men reported for duty early today they would not be "on the test" to handle Grunwick mail.

The Post Office said last night: "We have every intention of continuing our action to tell the staff to go home if they fail to handle mail normally after a formal direction to do so."

The suspended men were all on the afternoon shift and no mail was collected in Cricklewood after lunchtime. Nine night-shift workers, who report at 11 pm, and the 60 or 70 workers who will report early today, apparently would not normally perform duties that would require them to handle Grunwick mail.

Mr Jackson said it was silly for the men to go ahead with the blacking with only a six-four majority vote. Clearly there was not unanimity. They were wrong to do so after the decision of the union's London district council not to support the ban.

"The Post Office said there will be no more suspensions, so there is unlikely to be a spreading of industrial action," he said. He had advised local officials that despite the suspensions, the morning shift and the night shift should work normally.

Despite Mr Jackson's optimism there is a danger that even without further suspensions some men might take action in sympathy with those already sent home. The union has 200 branches in London and officials last night reported in districts of possible support for the suspended men.

Sixty-eight bags each containing photographs from 100 developed films are piled up at Cricklewood. The afternoon workers were suspended one by one.

Mr John Taylor and Mr Derek Walsh, London officials of the union, were denied entrance to the sorting office yesterday. Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader, joined the pickets outside Grunwick yesterday. He called for support from the trade union movement for a "national day of action" outside the factory on Monday.

Three thousand miners would be there, a thousand of them from Yorkshire, he said. "The time for pious words is at an end. It is time the whole trade union movement took action to bring this dispute to an end. The way to do that is to stop everything that goes into the factory. Treat it like a leper," Mr Scargill said.

About seventy pickets were on duty yesterday, one of the lowest turnouts in the last fortnight. Mr George Ward, owner of Grunwick, was in the High Court when he heard of the postmen's decision. The company is challenging a report by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) recommending bargaining rights for the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex).

He said: "Illegal action is gradually squeezing the commercial life out of Grunwick. Surely it is now clear that forces that are neither law-abiding nor amenable to the persuasion of moderate trade union opinion want to wreck the courts before we get started." The inquiry, headed by Lord Justice Scarman, began yesterday.

Mr Ward added: "If Grunwick's factory, not its willingness to cooperate with Lord Justice Scarman, is destroyed, it will be those forces, together with the Government's unwillingness to intervene and the trade union movement which unleashed them, that will have sabotaged the court of inquiry."

Court of inquiry, page 2

Leading article, letters, page 17

## General who seized power in Pakistan coup promises to hold free elections in October

From Hasan Akhtar

Rawalpindi, July 5

General Muhammad Zia al-Huq, the Pakistan army chief of staff who overthrew Mr Bhutto's government in a bloodless military coup this morning, announced the formation tonight of a four-man military council, led by himself, to assist President Chaudhry in administering the country until a new general election is held in October.

In a television and radio broadcast General Zia told the nation that he had no personal political ambitions. He had intervened to end the uncertainty created by the inability of politicians to resolve the crisis resulting from the controversial general election in March, and his sole objective was to arrange the holding of a free election.

The General banned all political activity for the time being and took into "protective custody" the former prime minister, and many leading figures from his government as well as important members of the opposition Pakistan

National Alliance, including Maulana Muftri Mahmud, its president.

All those arrested, most of whom were in Islamabad in connection with the abortive political negotiations between Mr Bhutto and the PNA, were taken from their homes by army squads early this morning. It was not officially stated where they have been taken but press reports said that Mr Bhutto had gone to the hill resort of Marree, 39 miles from Rawalpindi, while the others were taken to different military establishments. General Zia said the Begum Abdur Wali Khan, one of the main Opposition leaders, had not been arrested.

The other three members of the military council will be General M. Sharif, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee; Admiral Muhammad Sharif, navy chief of staff; and Air Marshal Zulfikar Ali, air force chief of staff.

The national and provincial assemblies which came into existence after the March election have been dissolved. Other



General Zia: No political ambitions.

measures taken today include the replacement of Mr Bhutto's government in four provinces by chief justices of the provincial high courts, the removal of the federal and provincial governments and the suspension of certain provisions in the Constitution, which has not been abrogated.

General Zia said in his broadcast that he firmly believed in democracy and the armed forces would restore power to the representatives of the people as soon as they were elected. He said he respected the judiciary, but martial law regulations would remain outside judicial review. He upheld press freedom and urged newspapers to be ethical in their reporting.

The general, who was appointed the army chief of staff by Mr Bhutto in March last year, strongly refuted a suggestion in some quarters that the present operation was the result of a clandestine deal with the former prime minister. He said he had very reluctantly decided to overthrow the government when he found that despite his warnings, politicians who lacked faith and trust in each other had failed to reach a settlement of their disputes.

It was in order to maintain Continued on page 6, col 7

## SNP's nose rubbed in its own innocence

From Ronald Fair

Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party has ordered all copies of the controversial *Canvasser's Manual* to be withdrawn from sale and destroyed. The manual, written to help party workers to answer awkward questions, has proved an embarrassment to the party.

Labour MPs have used it to demonstrate the deviousness of nationalist canvassers, and Mr Edward Taylor, Tory spokesman on Scottish affairs and Conservative MP for Glasgow Cathcart, was the latest to quote from it, much to the SNP's discomfort.

In the Commons debate on Monday he said the manual should be compulsory reading for anyone tempted by nationalist propaganda, adding that in compensation Goebbels and Machiavelli would qualify for Sunday school prizes.

That, as the nationalists would complain, was rubbing the party's nose hard in its own innocence.

The document largely described the simple psychology used by sellers of encyclopaedias, vacuum cleaners and political philosophies; where it stretched the bands of ambivalence beyond tolerance was in suggesting how a canvasser should answer a socialist who expressed a liking for Mr Ross (former Secretary of State for Scotland and a dedicated bulter of nationalists).

The canvasser, the manual instructs, should reply: "A fine man, and he should thank 'ad lib'. He should never attack something a man said he had admired. It was better to agree and then to add: 'But he's in the wrong organisation'."

In bold print was the instruction: "Never argue. Discuss, question, listen and agree with voters initially and then repeat their point, putting a different slant on it to show SNP ideas. Apparent agreement will ease tension."

There are now predictable reasons why people are opposed to nationalism and standard answers were provided for canvassers. Voters might be worried because Scotland was too small/remote, too poor/rich, lacked leaders; or that England would object if the country became independent.

The answer was the value of North Sea oil, the volume of Scottish exports, that a large proportion of United Kingdom financial institutions were Scots-based, that everyone was now "devolutionist". Scotland ruled herself for a thousand years before joining the United Kingdom and could do so again.

As a guideline, the manual said, it might valuable for the canvasser to explain his own reasons for joining the party. "But do not talk about seeing the light or make it sound like a new religion." Another point is:

"The person coming to this door is going to be the most interesting person I've ever met." The manual is not explicit whether that refers to the canvasser or the voter.

The SNP said yesterday that the document was regarded by many in the party as insulting and at best unsuitable. The publications department had been told not to sell any more copies, and remaining copies would be pulped.

## Dr Kaunda swings OAU behind Mr Mugabe

From Nicholas Ashford

Libreville, July 5

In a remarkable last-minute about-turn—achieved mainly by intensive lobbying by President Kaunda of Zambia—the Organisation of African Unity summit today gave firm backing to the Patriotic Front guerrillas in Rhodesia.

However, a five-point resolution unanimously approved by the heads of state today was ambiguously worded and seemed to have been deliberately left open to differing interpretations.

It was not clear whether the summit was giving exclusive recognition to the Patriotic Front and thereby "deregulating" the other two nationalist movements led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole. Questioned on this point, Mr Peter Onu, the official OAU spokesman, said it was up to journalists to draw their own conclusions.

The Patriotic Front, however, had no doubt about how it interpreted the resolution. Mr George Silundika, the Front's spokesman, declared that "the question of many movements in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is over. The Patriotic Front is there. Britain no longer has the excuse that there is no one to whom it can transfer power."

At a press conference tonight, a jubilant Mr Robert Mugabe, co-leader of the Patriotic Front, said the OAU decision was recognition of the priorities which his organization had set itself. "The present stage is:

Continued on page 6, col 7



The sea beckons and the sun brings out the holiday mood at Sennen Cove, Cornwall, as coastal temperatures move towards the eighties.

## Equity fears widespread closure of theatres in London and provinces

By Kenneth Gossling

Arts Reporter

Equity, the actors' union, is seriously concerned about the future of several commercial theatres in London and the provinces whose continued existence is being endangered by increasing costs.

The council of the union is to give details today of an initiative. The union fears that unless action is taken quickly it will be too late to save theatres in regional centres such as Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester.

After meeting yesterday the council issued a statement saying it was deeply disturbed by the imminent threat to a large number of important theatres in London and particularly in the English provinces.

The union's fears were echoed by a number of people, including Sir Donald Albery, chairman and managing director of Wyndham Theatres.

"My main worry," he said, "is that I think the profession's long-term future is threatened to some degree by fantastic rises in costs. It is very bitter, because the Government has continued to levy VAT on live performances."

The newly-created Theatres Trust has already expressed concern at the imminent end of leases on certain West End theatres; but Sir Donald said that was always happening. Leases were renewable and there could be no change of use without planning permission.

Mr Louis Benjamin, managing director of Moss Empires, which owns the Palladium, Victoria Palace in London, as well as four provincial theatres, said: "There has been a great deal of talk about this."

The fact is that the provincial theatres are in dire straits, due to the lack of attractions and escalating costs."

Mr Benjamin said the situation was under review and no conclusion had been reached. "But we are very worried about it and we are having talks with the Arts Council."

Mr Benjamin said Moss Empires had 36 theatres when he was a boy; now there were four: at Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester.

"One can take losses up to a degree but they are escalating every year. If a touring management wants a guarantee of £5,000 you have to weigh this against the £3,000 it costs to stay closed."

Antiques were being planned at Bristol and Liverpool and plans still being completed for Manchester and Birmingham.

## Unfaithful husbands pilloried in election

Husbands who deceive their wives are being exposed and condemned by the militant Japan Women's Party which is contesting 10 seats in the Upper House elections. The party's leader wants more than equality between the sexes. Page 8

## Milk scheme illegal

The European Court of Justice found that the European Commission acted illegally in operating a scheme for using skimmed milk powder in animal feed. The EEC may now face claims for compensation from the animal feed industry. Page 6

## Gloomy US forecast

Chase Econometrics predicts that the real rate of growth in the United States will be less than 1 per cent in the first half of 1978 and no more than 2 per cent of 1978 and no more than this pessimistic view. Wall Street shares this pessimistic view. Page 20

## Hijacker says he was inspired by dream

A hijacker who shot two people dead on a bus at Kennedy airport, New York, was said to have told police that he was "inspired by a dream". He was taken into custody when police rammed the bus as it drove to an aircraft he had demanded. Page 7

## Catholic mediator fails

The mediator appointed to try to end the dispute in Paris between Roman Catholic traditionalists and Cardinal Marty, the Archbishop, has admitted defeat. No conciliation is possible, M Jean Guirion, the Catholic philosopher and French Academician, has concluded. Page 6

## Leader page 17

Letter: On Grunwick dispute, from Mr D. G. Layton, and others; on the divinity of Christ, from Professor H. D. Lewis

## Arts, page 9

David Robinson writes about the Berlin Film Festival; Irving Wardle reviews *Cause Celebre*; the new *Randall* play at Her Majesty's; John Ford's new film *Nureyev* (Coliseum)

Features, pages 8 and 16  
Bernard Levin on why the Liberals must lose Saffron Walden; Peter Reddaway on Georgian dissidents; Katie Stewart's cookery

## Obituary, page 18

Mr John Scholes, Dora Garland 1912-1977; Sport, pages 10-12  
Gulf: Peter Ryde expects the Americans to dominate the 105th Open Championship which begins today; Cricket: Middlesex stay on top of county championship table; Football: draws for European competitions; Racing: Newmarket report and prospects

Business News, pages 19-26  
Stock markets: better than expected demand for BP dominated but leading stocks also edged ahead for a 1.4 rise in the FT Index to 451  
Business features: David Blake on implications of the recent decline of the dollar  
Business Diary: Commissionaires on the warpath

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## HOME NEWS

Man in the News: Directorship of Chatham House goes to a grandee of political journalism

## Singing a new song of old England

By Peter Hennessy

British political journalism has never spawned an independent figure in the American mould of a James Reston or an Arthur Kravitz. Perhaps the nearest Fleet Street has come to a home-grown commentator of similar stature is Mr David Watt, of the *Financial Times*, whose succession to the directorship of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, or Chatham House, as it is known from the location of its London headquarters, was announced yesterday.

His scholarly, high-minded, acerbic "Politics" Today columns are eagerly read each Friday morning by practitioners of the black arts of political life. The response they inspire is almost identical with that aroused on the Labour left by the lofty disquisitions of Mr Roy Jenkins, to whom Mr Watt has been close for many years.

Superficially, he could qualify for Aneurin Bevan's famous dismissal of Hugh Gaitskill as a "dedicated calculating machine". But beneath the dry, slightly cynical exterior the heart of a romantic about his country's past.

A few years ago, at one of those off-the-record occasions at Ditchley Park where the mighty of the Western world celebrate in private, he sang a song of old England, "to borrow a phrase used of Baldwin, enumerating most things his



Mr Watt: "Britain not going down the plughole."

country might lose if his admitted desire of an integrated Europe came about: he talked of Cox's Orange Pippins giving way to Golden Delicious apples and the disappearance of narrow lanes, hedgerows and draughty houses.

Mr Watt is deeply steeped in the history of the British Empire and is preparing a book on the Milner Kindergarten. What he admires about the old imperialists was their elevated purpose, the nobility of the opening movement of Elgar's first symphony.

"It is not just that," he added in conversation yesterday. "I really do think we have a political genius that is not

played out. Though I think we are in danger politically of losing our civility, I do not think we are going down the plughole."

The empire is gone, but the external dimension remains crucial to British politics, he believes. His primary purpose at Chatham House will be to "plug in" British politicians, civil servants and journalists to the wider dimension, and to insist that the discussion of foreign policy should not be restricted to experts.

At 45 he has acquired a breadth of experience since leaving Oxford with a degree in Greats in 1956. Of particular value in his new job will be his skills as a diplomatic correspondent of *The Scotsman* and later *Common Market* correspondent of *The Daily Herald* at the time of Britain's first application to join the EEC.

After three years of establishing the Washington office of the *Financial Times*, he returned to London in 1967 as political editor. He was fortunate in finding old friends, like Mr Jenkins and the late Mr Anthony Crossland on their way to the top in government.

As befits a grandee of British political journalism, he is not one to be overawed by his equals, let alone his inferiors, simply because they hold office. Mr Watt succeeds Mr Andrew Shonfield, who is taking up a chair at the European University Institute in Florence. His salary will be about £12,500.

## Aid priority urged for families with children

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The needs of pensioners and disabled people must take second place to those of families with children because social policy in its broadest sense has consistently discriminated against them in the past 20 years. That was the main message of most of the guests at a one-day seminar in London yesterday sponsored by the two Cabinet ministers responsible for social security.

Mr Emma, Secretary of State for Social Services, emphasised the high cost of most popularly advocated reforms of social security and demanded that their proponents should say which groups should be discriminated against to make way for their own priorities.

Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, set pension improvements as the first of four cornerstones to the social security system, with development of family support second.

But speaker after speaker pointed out that families with children have lost most in the past 20 years compared with other groups. They pay tax on incomes below their national supplementary benefit level, unlike single people or childless couples. Their savings and possession of essentials, such as a minimal amount of clothing and furniture, are less than those of other groups.

Women could no longer be regarded automatically as dependants of men because in many families decisions were being made about which partner should be the main breadwinner.

The different retirement ages of men and women was a divisive factor, particularly in employment, and the Government should consider ways of making the retirement age flexible for both sexes.

from pressure groups and statutory agencies to demand improvements to the child-benefit scheme as the first priority.

Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, pointed out that in the first year of the present Government disposable income for single people rose by 4 per cent, but for families with two children it fell by 5 per cent and for those with four or more children by 13 per cent. Since 1949, family allowances and child benefits had increased five times, compared with 16 times for pensions.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Conservative spokesman on social services, called for the establishment of an effective family lobby to press for support that recognises the family as the basic unit in society.

Mrs Betty Lockwood, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, pointed out that the entire social security system was based on the family patterns of the early 1940s, but that both the Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Act embodied a different philosophy on women's roles.

Women could no longer be regarded automatically as dependants of men because in many families decisions were being made about which partner should be the main breadwinner.

The different retirement ages of men and women was a divisive factor, particularly in employment, and the Government should consider ways of making the retirement age flexible for both sexes.



Transatlantic talk: Mr Peter Jay, British Ambassador-designate to the United States, with children of St Matthias Primary School, Rednal Green, east London, yesterday. His wife, Margaret, had presented the prizes and to mark the first anniversary of his yacht crossing of the Atlantic, he wore his Royal Naval Sailing Association cap.

## Independent word in the sweet Manx air

St John Chatter

Isle of Man

The last lines of the Manx national anthem, "Thy throne of home rule makes us free as thy seas," is a fact that Manx seemed to have particular significance when they were sung as fervently as ever at the ancient Tynwald ceremony yesterday.

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, was present as a guest. While his visit is strictly non-political, it is a fact that his recommendations are to be made soon for a breakaway by the island from the United Kingdom's direct rule and value-added tax system.

Yesterday's Tynwald ceremony, at which the laws enacted during the past year were proclaimed both in Manx and in English and a petition delivered to the Home Secretary, nor by bookmakers who were barred by Britain in their opening hours, was also the prelude to an unusual ceremony likely to take place in 1978, the millennium of the island's parliament.

Last in the day Mr Clifford Irving, a member of the House of Keys and chairman of the executive council, approached Mr Rees with the suggestion that the Queen, as Lord of Man, should be invited to attend the celebrations.

Mr G. V. C. Young, a local draftsman and historian in the Manx Government, has presented evidence showing that 1978 would be a reasonable year in which to celebrate the thousandth anniversary of the Manx parliament. His studies suggest that Godred Haraldrson was the first "King Orry" and that he probably formed an army that fought in those other, sometimes troublesome, offshore territories, Anglesey and Ireland.

So the Isle of Man feels confident in its decision to celebrate the millennium of the Tynwald parliament. But, on strictly practical grounds, the celebrations are being planned for 1979, rather than 1978 as suggested by Mr Young. The island needs time to plan and publicise the event.

## Birmingham has 10 cases of hepatitis

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham

The regional virus laboratory in Birmingham said yesterday that 10 cases of hepatitis B, a serious blood infection, had been diagnosed in the city. They appeared to be traceable to acupuncture, and an official at the laboratory said: "I should not be surprised if we got some more."

The virus was usually transmitted only by injection. It was assumed that some needles that had been used in acupuncture were not properly sterilised and were responsible because many of the cases have been traced back to one source.

Dr William Nicol, Birmingham's area medical officer, said it was as important for practitioners in acupuncture to have sterile needles as it was for doctors or dentists when giving injections.

Mr Sherraz Khan, aged 53, of Small Heath, Birmingham, had been informed of the outbreak by Dr Nicol and agreed that some of the infected people have been patients of his practice. He said he was entitled to use the qualification of doctor, having attended a course in acupuncture in Taiwan.

## Warning on endorsements

Motorists facing a court hearing were warned yesterday to check whether the offence carries a licence endorsement.

The RAC said that in several cases magistrates had ordered a licence to be endorsed although the offence did not warrant it.

The RAC said that in most cases of endorsement in error the courts had agreed to put things right.

## Start on new Tube line

Test drills along the proposed route of an Underground route between Fenchurch Street and Thameslink, London, began yesterday.

## Airport gang caught with help of army recruit

Lester Newman, aged 18, an army recruit, helped the police to trace a gang who had been stealing diamonds, gold and other valuables valued at £1.5m from Heathrow airport, London, since 1972. Judge Griffith-Jones, the Common Sergeant, was told at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Private Newman was said to have been on patrol on the Soney Castle army ranges at Farnborough, Surrey, in March last year when he saw two men burying packages on waste ground.

He took their vehicle number and told the police.

Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the prosecution, said Private Newman's information helped to accelerate the police inquiries into a £650,000 robbery from the airport on March 11 and eight men were arrested.

Since 1972, he said, more than £1.5m had been stolen in all thefts concerning one or more employees of British Airways who were employed as couriers to safeguard valuables between aircraft and the strongroom. He added:

"There is an inescapable inference that, in lesser roles, other employees were involved

## Nuclear fuel 'safer' storage method starts inquiry dispute

From Pearce Wright

Science Editor

Whitehaven

A safer method of storing spent nuclear fuel from atomic power stations has been devised by British Nuclear Fuels to contain the radioactive waste by-products.

The process, described by Mr B. F. Warner, the company's deputy head of research and development, became a dominant issue yesterday as the public inquiry into plans to

build a new type of plant at Windscale, Cumbria, to reprocess spent fuel from nuclear power stations in Britain and other countries.

The company says the method reduces the amount of low-level radioactive liquid effluent discharged into the sea.

The opponents of the Windscale expansion plan regard the method as evidence that oxide fuel elements can be stored for decades, rendering unnecessary the chemical reprocessing of spent fuel to separate its components into reusable uranium, plutonium, and highly active waste.

The spent fuel elements are, in any case, stored for at least a year in cooling ponds to allow much of the short-lived radioactive fission products to decay. The usual method is to store the fuel rods under water.

In the new method, conceived as a way of handling fuel rods when their protective coatings are damaged, the fuel elements are sealed in metal bottles which, in turn, are placed in racks in the ponds.

Mr George Dobry, QC, for the Isle of Man, asked if the fuel elements could be stored longer in bottles than by the established means. Mr Warner said they could, but expressed some reservations about the technicalities. They could not be so stored indefinitely, he added, suggesting that up to 30 years might be possible.

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WEST EUROPE

# New Spanish Cabinet omits the Franco religious ritual and swears loyalty to the King

Madrid, July 5.—The new Cabinet of Señor Suárez Government, sworn in today, but Spanish opposition parties decided to await publication of the Government programme before commenting.

For the first time since the end of the 1936-1939 Civil War, the ministers did not have to take their oath of office on bended knees before a crucifix with their right hand on a Bible.

A new formula replacing the outdated Francoist rite bound the Cabinet to show "loyalty to the King, respect for human rights and strict observance of the law". The ministers took the revised oath before King Juan Carlos standing up.

Señor Suárez formed his second Government mainly with prominent members of the Centrist alliance he led to victory in the June 15 election.

The key posts of the newly-created defence and economy ministries were, however, given to independents. The liberal Lieutenant-General Manuel Gutiérrez Mellado, aged 65, was given the job of modernising the armed forces and Professor Enrique Fuentes Quintana, aged 52, that of ending the economic crisis.

General Gutiérrez Mellado, as first Deputy Premier in the previous Suárez Government, had the difficult task of transforming the armed forces from one of the pillars of the Franco state into a body that would accept the results of the country's first democratic election in 41 years.

But what interested Spaniards most was how Professor Fuentes Quintana's economic solutions would hit their pockets. The professor is known as Spain's foremost tax expert and is on record as advocating a devaluation of the peseta and the introduction of a wages policy. Spanish newspapers today believed his policy statements to try to forestall what he might do.

Professor Fuentes Quintana previously headed the economic research group of the Spanish Savings Bank. On the home front he called for rationalising public spending, making the economic system more flexible and introducing a wages policy.

Wages went up by a record 29 per cent last year and the group said that improvements in housing, schooling, social security and unemployment pay would have to be offset to the trade unions in return for the conclusion of any kind of social contract.

The report said that foreign borrowing, expected to reach \$13,000m (about £7m) by the end of the year, should be guided by a "centralised direction." It defined foreign loans as a transitory measure.

Barcelona: Police held four radical left students today and said they were involved in the killing of Señor José María Buitrago, a Barcelona industrialist, by tapping a time bomb to his chest.

The industrialist was killed instantly on May 8 when he tried to remove a bomb himself 32 minutes after a band of armed men had attached it to him and demanded £4,500,000.

The four had no political affiliations and no police records. The arrests were made over the weekend and coincided with the discovery of an arms and explosives cache in a Barcelona apartment, the police said.—AP.

Ministers' business backgrounds, page 22

## Mediator in church dispute admits defeat

From Charles Hargrove Paris, July 5.

M. Jean Guizon, the philosopher and member of the French Academy who was appointed as mediator between the traditionalist Roman Catholics occupying the Paris church of Saint Nicolas du Chardonnet and Cardinal Marty, the Archbishop of Paris, has admitted his failure to resolve the problem during the three months granted to him at a court hearing on April 1.

The only consolation he derives from the situation is that "during the three months of negotiations, civil peace has been respected and resort to force was postponed". He also emphasises that the Archbishop of Paris "has never objected to the highest secular authorities granting the occupants a Paris church of which they had free disposal".

In answer to questions about the precise meaning of this rather syllabic phrase, M. Guizon explained that after the refusal at the end of April of an alternative church, that of St Marie Médicaris on the north-eastern outskirts of Paris, by Mgr Ducaud-Bourget, one of the leaders of the traditionalists, "we surveyed the other possibilities."

"M. Alain Peyrefitte, the Minister of Justice, took part in these discussions and Cardinal Marty declared himself in favour of this search for a solution".

A list of churches in Paris which might be made available to the traditionalists was drawn up and submitted by M. Guizon to Mgr Ducaud-Bourget. He indicated that he was ready to consider four of them.

On these, the chapel of La Salpêtrière, the huge prison-hospital founded by Louis XIV, seemed the most acceptable to the traditionalist leader. It is a large, classical building near the Jardin des Plantes.

But church matters are never quite as simple as they appear. The archbishop informed the Hôtel de Ville that the Salpêtrière was to some extent under its jurisdiction, because one of the side chapels was still used for worship.

So the occupation of St Nicolas continues. The police are in no hurry to carry out the court order for the expulsion of the traditionalists, and find themselves involved in this ecclesiastical housewifery, although there is probably nothing Mgr Ducaud-Bourget would like more, as it would make him a martyr.

## Professional footballers' rights in EEC assured

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, July 5.

The rights of professional footballers to offer their skills for hire anywhere in the EEC cannot be restricted by national rules or statutes, the European Commission has assured a German member of the European Parliament.

The member had questioned the legality of a clause in the rules of the German Football Association, which lays down that no more than two foreign players may be fielded.

In a written reply, the Commission says this clause cannot be invoked against professional players from other EEC states, whose rights must be protected by German courts under the free establishment provisions of the Rome Treaty.

The Commission adds that it is seeking the abolition by national sports federations of rules and regulations that conflict with Community law in this way.

# JUBILEE

The July issue of *The Illustrated London News* now on sale, price 50p includes a full and colourful record of the Silver Jubilee Procession the Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral and the walk to Guildhall

The Illustrated LONDON NEWS July 1977 50p THE SILVER JUBILEE

## Five powers embark on joint atom venture

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, July 5.

In an atmosphere of mutual congratulations, the representatives of five European powers gathered at the headquarters of the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA) in Paris today to sign a series of agreements to set up a joint company for research and development of fast breeders to get up the company, basically one supported by the French and the West Germans, were well advanced when President Carter announced three months ago that he was stopping development of this type of reactor in the interests of averting a proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Britain had joined in earlier negotiations to form the company, and with the expertise acquired at Dounreay would have been able to contribute significantly to the necessary technology. Negotiations with British engineers, and with scientists and engineers from the United States, had been going on for some time.

At a press conference after the signing here, the question whether Britain would be asked to join was shrugged off.

For the moment, France, which is building the world's first commercial 1,200-megawatt breeder, to be known as Super-Phénix, at Creys-Malville, and West Germany, building a 300-megawatt prototype breeder at Kalkar, near the Dutch border, are leading the consortium.

It was emphasised at the press conference that the whole deal was an industrial one and that everything was ultimately subject to political decisions. In other words, President Carter's decision was being read as having no significance in the industrial development of European fast breeder reactors. That bridge will have to be crossed and the other countries try to buy the technology.

## Seven held after £1m drug find at St Tropez

St Tropez, July 5.—Six West Germans and a Brazilian were being questioned tonight after police found hashish worth more than £1m in a pre-dawn raid on two luxury villas.

Police Commissioner Pierre Greco told reporters that the raid followed reports of a big drug smuggling operation from West Germany and Holland last month.

The Interior Ministry in Paris tonight named the seven suspects, who included Fraulein Marie-Christine von Opel, aged 26, a member of the family which founded the Opel car company. Any charges will be laid within three days, police said.—Reuters.

## Dead climber named

Chamonix, July 5.—A British mountaineer killed in a fall from Mont Blanc last Sunday was identified today as Mike Wilkins, aged about 21, of Windrush, Galloway Lane, Westham, Faversham, Sussex.

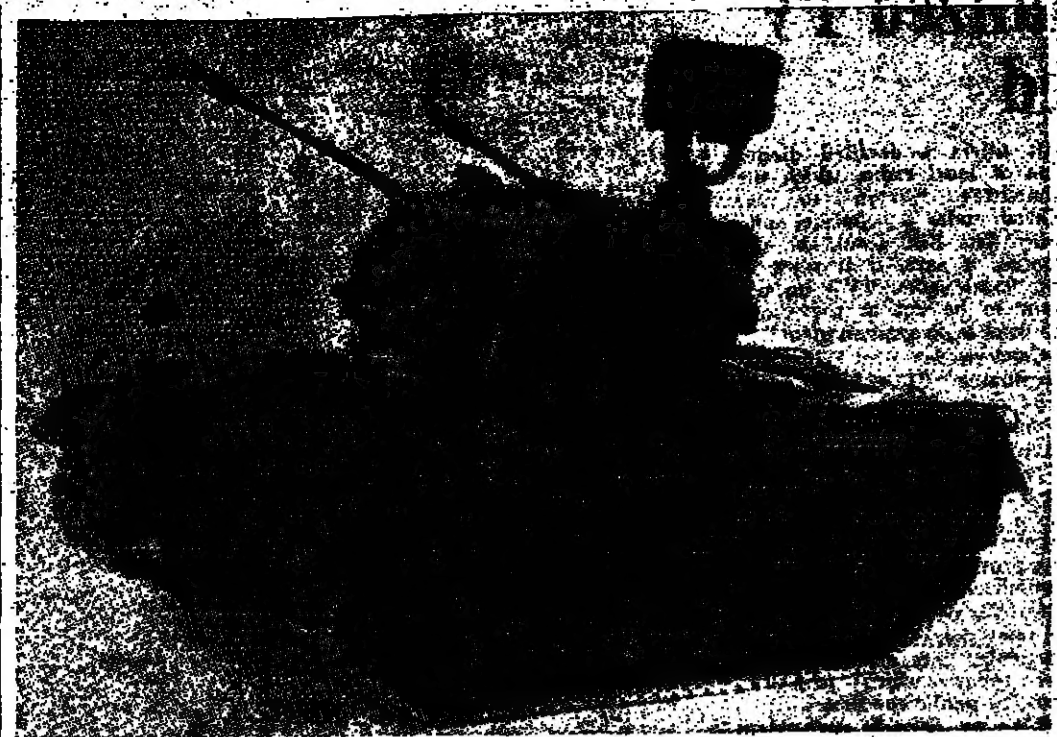
## Nine-year muddle over off-course tunnel

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, July 5.

It seemed a fine idea to build a tunnel between France and Spain under the Pyrenees back in 1967. Contracts were signed and work began after a careful study and plan of the route.

But somewhere deep under the mountains the tunnellers went off course and by the time everything was straightened out nine years had passed and the cost of the two-mile tunnel had doubled.

This is one of the prime examples of waste of public money selected by the French Audit Office during its annual scrutiny of the books. It has long been regarded as a somewhat futile exercise, since the report is always two years old when it comes out.



West Germany's new anti-aircraft tank, the 40mph Gepard.

## A Cheetah joins the Bundeswehr

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn, July 5.

The Bundeswehr showed off one of its latest and most formidable weapons with understandable pride at the army's air defence school in Rendsburg today. It is the Gepard (Cheetah) anti-aircraft tank, which is built on the chassis of the highly successful Leopard main battle tank.

The vehicle weighs 45 tons, has a maximum speed of 40 mph, a range of 340 miles and is operated by a crew of three. It is equipped with twin 35mm cannons.

The army says it is capable of shooting down the fastest aircraft at the lowest altitudes. The Gepard's performance statistics are little short of staggering. It can identify a target at ranges of up to 10 miles and needs only six seconds between identification and opening fire at a rate of 550 rounds a minute from each gun.

The Gepard can operate round the clock in all weathers and is not hindered by poor visibility. A special paint prevents it from being spotted by enemy infra-red detectors, and—in order to foil heat-seeking missiles—cold air is mixed with the exhaust from its engines before the gas is expelled.

## Herr Schmidt to visit Washington

From Dan van der Vat Bonn, July 5.

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, leaves Bonn tomorrow for a 12-day transatlantic tour that will take him to Canada, the United States and Iceland.

He starts on the west coast of Canada at Vancouver, where Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister, will be waiting to meet him. They will discuss the kind of general political and economic questions dealt with at the London summit conferences in May, in which the two leaders participated.

Herr Schmidt will take time off to see the sights, including the Calgary Stampede, and will visit several provinces. On July 13 he moves on to Washington to meet President Carter.

During his three days in Washington Herr Schmidt will discuss the world economy, nuclear proliferation, détente and human rights with the President and other leaders.

There is still a large difference of opinion between the two governments on these issues. The Americans will probably press Herr Schmidt once again to see if he can do more to expand the West German economy, to help countries in greater difficulty.

Washington is as unhappy as ever over West German determination to go ahead with the sale of nuclear reactors and fuel recycling technology to Brazil.

The recycling process has the side-effect of putting plutonium, the raw material for atomic bombs, in the hands of its users, and Mr Carter does not want this technology to be available to Latin America.

Bonn has made no secret of its unease over the Carter approach to human rights, which it sees as a threat to the achievements of Ostpolitik.

Little by little since the Helsinki agreement, at least 70,000 ethnic Germans have been allowed to emigrate to West Germany from the Soviet block. West Germans and West Berliners have made millions of visits to East Berlin and East Germany, and traffic in the other direction has also increased.

Whenever relations between Moscow and Washington cool, there is the inevitable parallel slowing down in détente, not only between Bonn and Moscow, but also between Bonn and East Berlin, Warsaw and Prague. The West Germans are already feeling the draught raised by Mr Carter's human rights campaign and would prefer him to talk about something else.

However, intractable differences between the two most important Western allies may be, at least, personal relations between Mr Carter and Herr Schmidt were put on a sound, working basis at the London summit.

Before that, the two men had given each other the cold shoulder. As time passed after Mr Carter's inauguration, it became steadily more embarrassing diplomatically that the new President had not invited his most important partner to visit him while in office. Western statesmen after another made the ritual pilgrimage to the White House. It remains remarkable that this first visit has taken six months to happen.

The Chancellor's last port of call will be Reykjavik, where the personal bene of Helms and Iceland's relations with the European Community are likely to dominate the meetings. Herr Schmidt and his wife return to Hamburg on July 17.

## Second win in a row for Korchnoi

Evian, July 5.—Viktor Korchnoi, the exiled Soviet grandmaster, made a breakthrough in his world chess candidates semi-final against Lev Polugayevsky when he won the second game here today.

Polugayevsky, who is also Russian, admitted defeat without resuming their adjourned game.

Korchnoi won the opening game and now leads 2-0 in the 16-game match. At this stage of the candidates' tournament, the winner of five games has the right to challenge Anatoly Karpov for the Soviet Union title for the world title.

Two wins in the first two games put Korchnoi in a commanding position. He must now be confident of qualifying to meet the winner of the other semi-final being played at Geneva.

Harry Golombek writes from Geneva: Both players in the Spassky-Porrtisch match seem to be fencing for possible weaknesses.

Porrtisch had white today and opened with Spassky choosing in reply his favourite Tarrasch Defence, a variation that gives free play for the pieces at the cost of an isolated pawn.

Round about move 15 Spassky offered a rook for a pawn and bishop but Porrtisch, realising that this would have cost him the initiative, declined the offer. On move 20 Spassky offered a draw and Porrtisch accepted.

## European Court finds that milk scheme was illegal

From Michael Horvath Bratislava, July 5.

The European Commission suffered a rare rebuke today when it was found guilty by its own institution, the European Court of Justice, of violating the principles of the EEC's agricultural policy, of which it is itself the custodian.

The court found that the Commission acted illegally last year in operating its temporary scheme for reducing the price of skimmed milk powder.

The deposit could be recovered only on production of documentary evidence that the stipulated percentage of surplus milk powder had been bought and used in the manufacture of animal feed.

The European court's ruling was requested by national courts in West Germany and Holland where the legality of the skimmed milk powder scheme had been challenged by local firms.

## Swiss to vote on plea to ban traffic on 12 Sundays

Berne, July 5.—The Swiss Government today rejected a request by 115,000 of its citizens to ban driving in Switzerland on 12 Sundays in the year.

One of the reasons for the Government's opposition was to protect the country's tourist industry.

The request for a ban on driving, motor boats and air travel on four Sunday a month would have carried "an unprecedented blow to individual liberties".

In Switzerland, any proposal with more than 50,000 signatures must be put to a referendum. It is expected the country will vote on the Sunday traffic proposal next year.—AP.

## Canaries hotel damaged in bomb explosion

Las Palmas, Canary Islands, July 5.—An explosion at a hotel run by the Spanish airline Iberia caused extensive damage early today but no injuries.

A radio report said it had been caused by a terrorist bomb but no group had so far claimed responsibility.

The Canaries separatist group, MAPAIC, which is backed by Algeria, had been responsible for several previous bomb attacks.

The explosion occurred only a few hours after the Spanish Government told the Organisation of African Unity that it would reject any attempts to send an inquiry team to the Canaries.—Reuters.

OVERSEAS

## Romanian defence of Eurocommunism against Soviet critics

Vienna, July 5.—The Romanian Communist Party today issued a spirited defence of Eurocommunism, implying disagreement with Soviet views.

The official Bucharest party newspaper *Scinteia* said individual Communist parties had a basic right and duty to work out their own policies, free from outside criticism.

*Scinteia* did not mention a Soviet attack recently on Senator Scoville, the American Communist leader, but said it was wrong to fan disputes, apportion blame and sharpen differences in the Communist movement.

The Communist parties of western Europe were scoring "unquestionable successes" because they took into account the specific peculiarities and vital interests of their own countries, *Scinteia* said.

A Soviet journal, *New Times*, called Señor Carrillo a splitter two weeks ago, describing his view of Eurocommunism as anti-Soviet. The piece was generally seen as an attack on the Italian and French Communist parties as well.

The Romanian paper said: "The autonomous elaboration by each party of its policy, tactics and strategy... is the only way to ensure its continuous consolidation and increased approval of masses".

This was the right and obligation of every Communist party in the present condition "when the existence of a single centre or forum in the Communist movement is completely excluded and inconceivable".

*Scinteia* said: "There is no unique prescription, no compulsory models for carrying out revolutionary changes." If differences are "the only just and rational" way to turn them into an act of dispute, "and to avoid 'things that could sharpen divisions'".

Rome, July 5.—The Italian Communist Party will put the book by Señor Carrillo, the Soviet Union to deal with it as an "enemy socialist".

Giuseppe, the head of last week's Italian Communist delegation to Moscow today, he told the Russian party disapproved of harsh Soviet attacks on Carrillo.

The Italian party has endorsed Señor Carrillo's book but we have said that we should discuss it and demand it should be discussed. It is clear about it: we will put it to a vote.—AP.

## Zanu rejects OAU backing for Mugabe guerrillas

Continued from page 1

one which requires armed struggle", he said. "Our immediate task is to destroy British imperialism, colonialism and capitalism."

He said the African leaders had rejected that this was not the time to quibble about the primacy of an independent Zimbabwe because, no independent Zimbabwe exists. The task of choosing leaders and parties that will govern Zimbabwe can only follow from the successful prosecution of the armed struggle.

Mr Mugabe's co-leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, told the press conference that all Rhodesian nationalists should unite within the Patriotic Front.

"We will do everything to see that all Zimbabweans who want to take part in the armed struggle will find room in the Patriotic Front", he said. He made it clear that he expected the leaders of the rival movements to seek membership of his organization.

However, this offer was immediately spurned by Bishop Muzorewa. "Nothing has been changed by the OAU decision", he said. "We will go on as before." The Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) led by Mr Sithole also rejected the OAU stand.

The OAU decision follows a move by the five "front line" states in Lusaka last January to give all material and diplomatic support to the Patriotic Front. This decision was discussed during the summit meeting of the OAU council of ministers meeting in Lomé earlier this year where it was agreed to refer the matter to the present summit.

Today's resolution makes 1. Expresses its satisfaction on the successful conclusion of the armed struggle in Zimbabwe carried out by the Zimbabwe People's Army, under the leadership of the Patriotic Front.

2. Calls on all Zimbabweans devoted to the struggle for the liberation of their country to do so within the Patriotic Front; and requests the front line states to assist in that direction.

3. Urges all OAU member states to refrain from acts of supporting individuals, thus running the risk of creating

more than one army for liberation and defence.

4. Decides to endorse recommendation of the eighth session of the co-ordinating committee for liberation of Africa on the OAU heads of state to increase their financial and political support to the people of Zimbabwe to regain their rights to determination and independence.

The final resolution was a compromise between one which wanted to give explicit backing to the Patriotic Front and those who did not want to exclude the other movements.

It is clear that in addition to the intensive lobbying by the two main movements, the OAU heads of state were determined to avoid some divisions which would have OAU during the debate on recognition of the MPLA movement in Angola 18 months ago.

The heads of state also emphasized that while they wished support to the Patriotic Front in order to intensify the struggle against the Rhodesian Government, the question of the political leadership of the country after independence must be left to the people of Rhodesia to decide.

The summit also decided to set up two special commissions to look into two disputes between Ethiopia, Sudan and other Arab Chad and Libya.

The meeting also agreed that the extraordinary summit meeting to consider the question of western Sahara should be held in Lusaka in October.

Resolutions adopted by Council of Ministers last week on sanctions against Rhodesia and South Africa, approved and the summit agreed to send a mission to oil-producing countries to try and end an oil embargo against the white-ruled countries.

The meeting also called President Bongo of Gabon, under a mission to Eritrea to discuss the question of Eritrea's continued occupation of Marakech on the coast of Africa.

## Mr Bhutto in trouble since allegations of vote-rigging

Continued from page 1

law and order over the past few months so that the political talks should succeed that he had agreed to the use of the armed forces in policing the country.

Pakistan's third state of martial law in 19 years was imposed early this morning after Mr Bhutto and his political opponents had almost abandoned the agreement arrived at on Saturday after a month of negotiations.

Although Mr Bhutto said last night, only a few hours before the military takeover, that he would resume the dialogue with the Opposition, increasingly violent incidents in Lahore and Karachi and a sharper tone in the leader's statements gave little hope of an early political settlement.

The first news of military rule came in today's first radio news bulletin at 6 am. It was officially reported that the situation continued to remain normal all over the country.

Although troops were posted at all public installations and important centres in Rawalpindi, there was little perceptible "dislocation in the city's normal life". The President's house showed no sign of any military takeover, although the approaches to the Prime Minister's house were barricaded by the army.

Ironically, this morning's newspaper carried the usual full version of the former Prime Minister's statement at his press conference last night on resuming the political dialogue. There was virtually no mention of today's developments and only one Urdu newspaper gave a brief account of the arrests of main ministers and Opposition leaders.

Mr Bhutto had ruled Pakistan for just over six and a half years. He began his tenure as chief martial law administrator and President on December 1971. He secured Opposition agreement to Pakistan's Constitution in 1973 but after that his government assumed a style of personalism and many important political leaders were prosecuted.

Mr Bhutto's real trouble began with his triumph in March election, which Opposition rejected on grounds that it had been rigged. The Opposition organized country-wide movement in the middle of March and in June in which about 350 people were reported killed by police and armed forces thousands of opponents of Bhutto were detained.

The general who is known for his religious fervour, a special tribute to the religion of Islamic spirit, "recent movement" an attempt to refer to a demand for the abolition of Islamic principles in the country and Mr Bhutto's decision in April to yield the demand by banning dog, gambling and horse racing.

General Zia said he had in painful steps to restore order and tranquillity in the country as a soldier of Islam and a devout Muslim. He is expected to announce a timetable for the election after taking into his confidence the political leaders, who have been placed temporarily in protective custody.

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# defence ism viet critic

## Breakaway Rhodesian grouping launched with strong denial of extreme right-wing sympathies

**OVERSEAS**

**Frederick Cleary**  
Harare, July 5

Under a lion's head emblem, the slogan "Rhodesia at the crossroads" and the new white-minority movement in Rhodesia, the Rhodesian Action Party, was formally launched today in a packed hall at the Victoria Hotel.

The interim leader, Mr. Ian Smith, 46, a former Rhodesian Prime Minister, said the party was not to turn to the extreme right, but to the future of Rhodesia. He said it would not be a party of "extreme right-wing" but a party of "extreme right-wing" as the book by Sir John Gubbins, "The Rhodesian Revolution", had said.

Mr. Smith said the party was not to turn to the extreme right, but to the future of Rhodesia. He said it would not be a party of "extreme right-wing" but a party of "extreme right-wing" as the book by Sir John Gubbins, "The Rhodesian Revolution", had said.

## OAU back guerrillas ailed poet tells why he turned to politics

**Frederick Cleary**  
Harare, July 5

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## Lebanon fighting spreads

**Frederick Cleary**  
Harare, July 5

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majority rule is desirable or necessary in Rhodesia. It believes in a federal style system with different racial groups working in co-existence.

The party claims to have spoken already to African political leaders (unnamed) and reached a measure of agreement on a common goal.

Answering questions at a lively news conference, Mr. Smith said the party was not to turn to the extreme right, but to the future of Rhodesia. He said it would not be a party of "extreme right-wing" but a party of "extreme right-wing" as the book by Sir John Gubbins, "The Rhodesian Revolution", had said.

## South African jobless 'threat to security'

**Frederick Cleary**  
Johannesburg, July 5

Growing unemployment in South Africa is a "threat to security", a potentially more dangerous than guerrilla war on the country's borders, an academic conference in Johannesburg has been told.

Other experts told the conference that the number of jobless in the country was 1,500,000 workers, mostly urban blacks, were already jobless, and that unemployment would continue to increase until 1981.

Dr. Alex Boraine, a Progressive Reform Party MP and a personal adviser at the Prime Minister's Office, gave his warning that unemployment could "fan the flames of frustration and anger" among black youths.

## Expulsion of Taiwan from world badminton unlawful

**Frederick Cleary**  
London, July 5

Mr. Justice Robert Goff ruled in the High Court in London yesterday that the Taiwan Badminton Association had been wrongly expelled from the sport's international federation.

The judge had been told that the Taiwanese were expelled from the International Badminton Federation as a political manoeuvre so that a rival association in the People's Republic of China could be admitted.

He ruled that the expulsion was invalid because the decision, taken at the federation's annual meeting in Sweden in May, did not have the required three-quarters majority of delegates.

## Rhodesia barred from Maccabiah Games

**Frederick Cleary**  
Harare, July 5

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## Bomb trap for police fails

**Frederick Cleary**  
Cairo, July 5

Muslim extremists tried to lure police into a booby-trapped flat by telling them the body of a kidnapped former minister was there, police sources said today.

An anonymous caller claiming to represent the extremists, said Dr. Muhammad Husayn al-Zahabi, the former Minister of Religious Endowments, was being held in the flat.



The alleged hijacker in custody after police rammed a bus at Kennedy airport.

## Hijacker 'was inspired by dream'

**Frederick Cleary**  
New York, July 5

The hijacker who killed two people and wounded two others on a bus at Kennedy airport yesterday said he had been inspired by a dream, the police said.

Luis Robinson, a 26-year-old ordinary seaman, said he "felt the country was going into chaos and somebody had to stop it."

## Mr Beigin satisfied with Sadat response

**Frederick Cleary**  
Tel Aviv, July 5

Mr. Beigin, the Israeli Prime Minister, expressed satisfaction today over the statement by President Sadat of Egypt accepting his proposal to convene the Geneva peace conference in October, but the unwelcome agreement was not viewed here as a breakthrough.

The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization as an obstacle, officials in Jerusalem said, that the Arabs had not revoked their demand that the PLO delegation should join the original Arab participants of the Geneva conference, while the Israelis reaffirmed today that they would not sit down with a delegation representing Arab terrorist organizations.

## Earth tremor in Australia

**Frederick Cleary**  
Melbourne, July 5

An earth tremor classified by scientists as weak, was felt in Canberra and many parts of southern New South Wales early today.

The tremor was recorded on the open-ended Richter scale. No injuries were reported.

## Correction

A photograph of Al-Azhar University, Cairo, published on April 4 in the special report Education and Islam was incorrectly captioned. The photograph shows a gate to the university precincts and the entrance to the Imam Mohammed Abdul lecture hall, and not as otherwise stated.

## Islamic leader says he may support Mr Demirel

**Frederick Cleary**  
Geneva, July 5

Mr. Erbakan's statement was "extremely constructive" and "would help in solving the present crisis," sources close to Mr. Demirel said he would probably begin his talks with party leaders, starting with Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the caretaker Prime Minister and leader of the Republican People's Party, on Thursday.

He is not expected to announce his Cabinet until the middle of next week at the earliest.

## You don't have to be an elephant to remember the times of our Jumbos to New York.

LONDON		NEW YORK	
DEPART		ARRIVE	
MON.	14-15	16-45	
TUES.	14-15	16-45	
WED.	14-15	16-45	
THURS.	14-15	16-45	
FRID.	14-15	16-45	
SAT.	14-15	16-45	
SUN.	14-15	16-45	

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## Chile jet hijackers demand Paris flight

**Frederick Cleary**  
Lima, July 5

Hijackers today forced a Chilean airliner carrying 60 people to fly to Lima, the Peruvian capital and then demanded to be flown to Paris, authorities here said.

The hijackers seized the Boeing 727 of Ladero Airlines on an internal flight from Arica, in the far north of Chile, to the capital of Santiago. After it arrived in Lima they released a group of hostages and said they wanted to go to Paris.

## Shaikh Abdullah consolidates Kashmir victory

**Frederick Cleary**  
Srinagar, July 5

Shaikh Abdullah's National Conference Party consolidated its sweeping election victory in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir as more results were announced today.

With only six seats still to be declared, the Shaikh's party had won 43 of the 76 in the new state assembly, giving it a clear working majority.

## 4,000 bottles of champagne seized in Lagos

**Frederick Cleary**  
Lagos, July 5

The police today seized more than 4,000 bottles of champagne in what the Nigerian radio described as an attempt to check "ostentatious living" in Lagos.

The seizure came after a raid of supermarkets and other stores by the police. The exercise was expected to continue here and in other parts of the Lagos state.

## Nuclear test-ban talks 'on the right track'

**Frederick Cleary**  
Geneva, July 5

Negotiations for treaties banning nuclear tests and chemical weapons are now on the right track, Mr. Adrian Fisher, the United States delegate, said today when the 30-nation disarmament conference in Geneva opened its summer session.

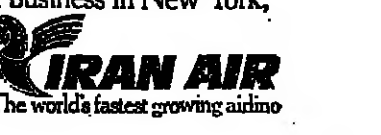
He said the key elements of a total nuclear test ban would be the subject of separate discussions starting here next week between the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain. If these succeeded, the full conference would then go ahead with elaborating a treaty.

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## OVERSEAS

## Tamil leadership sees Sri Lanka election as poll on autonomy

From Donovan Mohdich Colombo, July 5

The only certainty in the Sri Lanka general election campaign is that the Tamil Liberation Front (TULF) will win most, if not all, of the 24 seats in the predominantly Tamil-speaking northern and eastern provinces. The Front, a combination of the main Tamil political parties, faces no real opposition from the ruling Freedom Party and the opposition United National Party (UNP), which are contesting a few of the seats in the north and east where there are sizeable Sinhalese minority groups. The TULF leaders with victory assured, maintain that they regard the general election on July 21 as a plebiscite on whether the Tamils want a separate state. That claim is vitiated, however, by the fact that of Sri Lanka's 3,400,000 Tamils only 1,600,000 live in the north and east, and many of those have property or business interests in the seven predominantly Sinhalese provinces. Mrs Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister and leader of the Freedom Party, and Mr J. R. Jayewardene, leader of the United National Party are being careful not to antagonize the

Tamil leaders. Either party might need the support of TULF if it fails to win an absolute majority.

Mr A. Amirthalingam, joint secretary of the TULF has left room for manoeuvre with a statement that if any government introduces measures which may meet the aspirations of the Tamil people, "we may consider supporting such measures—and not the Government as such—and help it to implement them."

As it is inconceivable that either the Freedom Party, or the UNP, will agree to the creation of a Tamil state, the TULF is obviously hoping to obtain all its demands on language and other rights, short of a separate State by maintaining a neutral stance.

Shortly before his death in April this year Mr S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, the leader of the TULF, had discussions with Mrs Bandaranaike on these demands, and the dialogue will continue with whatever government results from the elections. Twice, however, in 1960 and 1968, the Tamil Federal Party (now the main constituent of the TULF) helped to unmake and make governments, and history could repeat itself.

## Errant husbands under fire from women militants in Japan's election campaign

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, July 5

Wearing petite white uniforms and pink helmets, a new militant force has entered the political arena in Japan to chill the hearts of male chauvinists, errant husbands and men in general. It is the Japan Women's Party, which is putting up 10 candidates in the elections to the Upper House of the Diet on Sunday.

When Mrs Misako Enoki, the 32-year-old wife of a Tokyo doctor, borrowed \$35,000 from her husband in April to fund the party, Mrs Enoki's husband, who had been a hardworking businessman, pale and scarred when militant women force their way into the hallowed halls of business and publicly harass executives who maintain mistresses.

A few days ago Mrs Enoki and her husband were cornered into a shareholders' meeting of Japan Airlines and asked the management to take responsibility for an officer who refused to support his separated wife.

Despite carrels from the floor, the persistent Mrs Enoki eventually persuaded the embarrassed management to take up the issue after the meeting. The women then moved off to attack another errant husband in his office.

Male politicians are attempting to avoid Mrs Enoki's wrath. She has moved her headquarters to 20 MPs who "cheat their wives".

The outcome of the forthcoming election means more than political power for Mrs Enoki. If she fails to retrieve the deposits of her 10 candidates and return the borrowed \$35,000 to her husband this month, she must live by her promise and return to the

kitchen or else give her husband a divorce.

Discussing her campaign tactics to win over the support of the "oppressed" woman voter, Mrs Enoki said: "When you go into a business office, all of the men from the division chief down, go pale. They say: 'Give us the name of the man you want.' When they find that they are not the one we are looking for, they become relaxed. They must all have guilty consciences."

"We feel sorry for them but we have no choice but to attack men who are engaged in extramarital affairs or husbands who refuse to support their wives. We are fighting for women's rights."

Mrs Enoki, a graduate of the school of pharmacy at Kyoto University, first gained prominence in 1972 with a demand that the Government should legalize the contraceptive pill. The movement is fighting to legalize abortion and to win equal pay for women.

Her ultimate political objectives are ambitious. In her short term she is prepared to enter into a coalition government with opposition parties, provided that the Japan Women's Party is given three ministerial posts. But ultimately she does not believe in equality. "The men have had their day," she says. "We believe that the time for female supremacy has come."

Under her long term programme, women will dominate the Lower House of Parliament while men will be permitted to participate in the Upper House. Women will replace men in the public services and the women will be given the opportunity to sit for examinations in the elite universities.

## Mr Brezhnev tells envoy where he and US differ

Moscow, July 5—President Brezhnev today received Mr Malcolm Toon the American Ambassador and told him of "a number of aspects of United States policy which do not accord with the aim of a constructive development of relations."

The United States Embassy confirmed the 100-minute meeting but offered few details beyond the Tass report. An embassy spokesman indicated that Mr Toon had responded to Mr Brezhnev's comments.

Mr Brezhnev gave Mr Toon a letter to President Carter in response to one that Mr Carter had sent him. President Carter's letter came after Mr Toon returned from consultations in Washington on June 11. The contents of the letters were not known.

Tass said that President Brezhnev, who received Mr Toon at the ambassador's request, reaffirmed the line of the Soviet Union on questions of relations with the United States, emphasizing that these relations should be based

on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The agency added that "in this connection he noted a number of aspects in United States policy which do not accord with the aim of a constructive development of relations." To be reported.

The Soviet spokesman has frequently asserted that Mr Carter's public statements on the Soviet human rights issue amount to "interference in the country's internal affairs. The principles of 'equality and mutual benefit' are often cited by Russians as reasons for a lowering of American barriers to trade with the Soviet Union."

Yesterday, Mr Toon's broadcast by Moscow television for the first time since 1974. Embassy officials said the Russians had objected to a passage on human rights in the text of the ambassador's declaration to remove it before recording his address. —AP.

## Officials ousted after four die at Bucharest stadium

Bucharest, July 5—Three high-ranking officials have been dismissed after the investigation of a gate-crashing incident at a stadium here which claimed four lives last month, it was disclosed here.

The officials were the chief of the capital's militia (police), a secretary in charge of propaganda of the communist party's Bucharest municipal committee and the local chairman of the committee for Socialist Education and Culture.

A floodlit, fund-raising variety show for the victims of last spring's earthquake had to be halted shortly after it began in the city's August 23 Stadium, when crowds of disappointed ticket-holders smashed the gates and forced their way in. But the stadium was already

filled beyond its 60,000 seating capacity, the Communist Party newspaper *Schiteia* said today. In its report of the investigation results, the newspaper spoke of "grave disorders and violations of the law" by a series of organs and institutions and cadres holding responsible jobs.

The incident was apparently caused by over selling of tickets. The demand was very great because some of the most popular Romanian actors, singers, film stars and footballers were part in the show.

The investigating commission also found financial "disorders". Tickets were allegedly sold unregistered, with the money raised being pocketed by some private individuals. A separate investigation into this matter was under way, the party newspaper reported. —AP.

## It might be blindingly obvious, but can you prove it?

David Sinclair's recent article in *The Times* (June 6) considered some of the statistical ways in which statistics are used, and devised three categories of mis-statistics: the Blindingly Obvious, the Great Leap Sideways, and We'll Prove It If It Kills You. From reading "popular" literature, and in particular some scientific reports in the daily press, it might seem that all statistics should be put into one of these groups. This is not so, and I would like to explain why, and how it is possible to discriminate between such pseudo-statistics and the genuine article.

In the context in which I have been dealing with them, statistics are used to demonstrate the similarities or differences between groups, be they mice or men, under study. (To all ears now reaching for their pens, I can assure you that many other uses exist, but they do not concern Mr Sinclair, and shall not concern me.)

For example, a researcher wants to know whether an additive to washing powder will make clothes whiter. Some blue clothes are washed in Flawo Super-Blo granules, and others are washed in identical machines, at the same temperature and for the same time, in Flawo without S-B. The two piles are compared and the test samples—those washed with S-B—are all uniformly brighter than the other, the so-called "control" group. So the researcher can be certain that the additive increases whiteness. No further analysis of the results is required.

However, the differences between test and control groups are often pointed out nearly as clearly as the similarities. This is particularly true of biological experiments, including psychological and sociological studies.

A researcher might want to know whether a new liquid fertilizer increases the yield of tomato plants. This is particularly true if the plants are divided into two equal groups. The test group receives the fertilizer in appropriate doses; the control group, which does not receive the fertilizer, is treated in an identical way, even to the extent of adding water in volumes equal to the fertilizer added to the test plants, to make sure that extra liquid will make no difference.

When the tomatoes ripen, they are picked and the yield from each plant is weighed. Oh, that biological systems were neat and regular. For the researcher it is unfortunate that this is not so. It is unlikely that any two plants in either group will have yields of identical weight. So how can a comparison be made?

The answer is by using averages, at least in the first instance. The yields of all plants in the test group are added together, and the total divided by the number of plants to obtain the average yield. The same is done with the control group, and the two averages are compared. If the fertilizer has done its job, the test average will be higher than that of the control plants.

All this may seem blindingly obvious, but it is essential to the understanding of how statistics can be used and misused. The point is that averages do not always work out to give clear-cut, distinct groups. What if there had been a single, freak giant tomato in the test group but otherwise the tomatoes in both groups were much the same size? The average yield for the test group would be higher, even though the fertilizer had done nothing. So further calculations have to be made.

The range on either side of the average is known as the standard deviation (s.d. for short). The s.d. can be calculated with statistics and is written down with a plus or minus sign before it signifying that it is the number which, added to and subtracted from the average, gives the full range. The smaller the s.d., the smaller the range.

But this is where one of the dangers occurs. To be more precise about whether two groups have a relevant (or, to use the statistical term, significant) difference, a statistical calculation can be made which produces a figure called the probability, telling you what the probability is that the two groups are statistically the same.

The inclusion of the word "statistically" is vital. If a report finds, say, that 101-year-old children are statistically no taller than 10-year-olds, it does not mean that the older, taller children, it simply means that the differences are not great enough to draw any inferences from

them. This is useful to know, because it is easy to imagine many factors other than age which could be influencing the children's heights (perhaps all the older ones were pygmies and the younger ones Zulus), and a statistical similarity might lead to a search for these.

There is a puzzle is happy to take the Blindingly Obvious for granted, it is necessary for someone to do the statistics to prove that the assumption can safely be made. Where it all goes wrong is in the way the public is told about the results of research. All the boring statistics are omitted, and for maximum impact, tentative nature of the research implied by the statistics is left out.

"Wonder Drug to Cure Cancer" is a reduction of the kind of result which might have stated that in a group of mice selected with cancer and treated with drug X, tumor size was statistically significantly smaller than tumor size in mice not treated with the drug. More boring, but more accurate. So the category of We'll Prove It If It Kills You can be corrected by the insertion of qualifiers such as "in the group tested" or "more important" or "very possibly".

The Great Leap Sideways is less a statistical fault than one of interpretation, arising largely because the wrong conclusion is drawn from the wrong data. While I can conceive of this being done by a researcher (particularly when statistics are involved) it seems more likely to be misunderstanding generated in the retelling of the story—dare I say, introduced for dramatic effect?

So really it is the misuse, or misunderstanding of statistics which leads to the kind of false statements which are so often part of the reporting of scientific research, and which, far from showing research to be enlightening, diminishes its credibility.

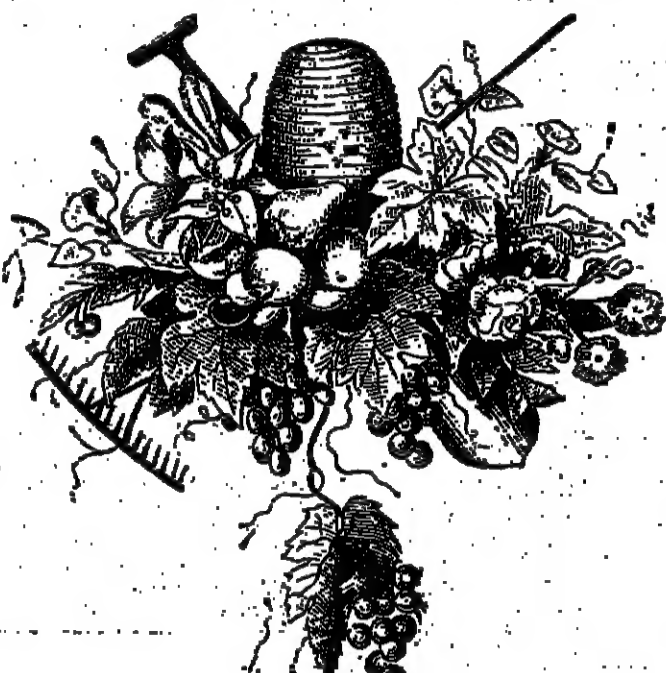
The same argument applies to statistics as to religion: it is not the principle which is weak, but frail man, who manages to contaminate most things of purity.

Hanno Koppel

The author is a researcher in the field of the biological sciences.

Katie Stewart

## Fools' paradise



When cold you will find that you can dip the Pavlova off the paper on to a serving platter. Fill the centre with the lightly whipped double cream and top with fresh strawberries or raspberries before serving. The Pavlova shell can be baked the day before and once cold will keep perfectly overnight in an airtight tin.

Summer fruit compote. When I really want to impress my friends, I cook a selection of soft summer fruits in a light syrup which I thicken afterwards with a little cornflour to give the mixture an attractive shiny glaze. A compote like this is lovely served with cream or with chilled chick cream.

Serves 6

6 oz caster sugar;

1 pint water;

11-2lb prepared summer fruits (choose from dessert gooseberries, raspberries, redcurrants and strawberries);

1 level tablespoon cornflour.

Measure the sugar and water into a saucepan and stir over low heat to make a syrup. Bring to the boil and add the fruits that need the longest cooking time first—gooseberries for example. Bring back to a simmer and cook gently covered with a lid until the gooseberries are just tender. Then add the fruit that needs little or no cooking like redcurrants (which have been stripped from the stalks), raspberries and strawberries. Bring back to the boil and draw off the heat. Using a perforated spoon lift the fruit from the pan into a serving dish.

Replace the pan of juice over the heat. Blend the cornflour with a little water and stir into the juice. Bring up to the boil, stirring the juice, has thickened slightly; it is shiny and clear. Pour over the fruit and leave until quite cold before serving; after 24 hours.

Summer pudding. Any mixture of summer fruit such as black and redcurrants, raspberries, loganberries, strawberries, gooseberries and cherries may be used. For the best flavour and richest colour use plenty of redcurrants and raspberries. Later in the year, make an Autumn pudding with cooked blackberries and apples.

Serves 4-6

2lb mixed summer fruits;

4-6 oz caster sugar;

2-3 tablespoons water;

8-10 thin slices day-old bread.

Rinse out a 14 pint pudding basin with cold water. Trim the crusts from the bread. Cut a circle to fit the bottom of the basin, and some wedge shaped pieces to line the sides. Press the bread firmly in to line the basin and see that there are no gaps. Reserve some pieces of bread to cover the top.

Prepare the fruit according to kind and remove any stones from the cherries. Place the sugar and water in a pan and stir over low heat to dissolve. Add the tough skinned fruits (gooseberries, black or redcurrants) and stew gently until tender. Then add the soft fruits and cook for a few more minutes. Strain off the juice and reserve.

Turn the fruit into the lined pudding basin. Cover the pudding top with a circle of bread. Stand the basin on a plate to catch any over-flowing juices. Cover the top with a saucer or small plate and press down with a weight. Leave overnight. Run a knife round the sides to loosen the pudding and turn out into a serving dish. Spoon the reserved fruit syrup over the pudding. Serve with clotted cream.

## ENTERTAINMENTS

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## THE ARTS

## Gold and silver at Salisbury Festival

Eight exhibitions are planned for the Salisbury Festival of the Arts, being held from September 10 to 24. They include the work of goldsmiths, silversmiths, and jewellers by Barry Cohen and John Trevelyan, the work of the eighteenth-century painter John Gainsborough, and a collection of drawings and prints of Salisbury Cathedral, covering 100 years.

Three premieres are also featured: A contemporary play by Richard Shepherd, directed by David Hare, and a play by C. J. Cresswell, by John Galsworthy, adapted from his novel *The Forsyte Saga*. The play by John Galsworthy, adapted from his novel *The Forsyte Saga*, is being staged by the Salisbury Festival of the Arts.

International artists and composers are also featured. These include the King's Singers, the Bourne Music Festival, the Salisbury Festival of the Arts, and the Salisbury Festival of the Arts.

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## Hitler rules at the Berlin Film Festival

Twenty years from its inception in 1951, the Berlin Film Festival was directed by Dr. Gerd Bauer, who guided it from its initial period as a Cold War demonstration to its present scale and international status. Dr. Bauer has chosen to resign, succeeded by Dr. Wolfgang Petersen, film critic of *Die Zeit*, who does not disguise his ambition of usurping the festival as the major international film festival. Next year the even plans to hold his festival two months before Cannes, instead of two months after, hoping in this way to scoop the best of the season's new films.

Berlin already affords a bewildering richness. Apart from the scores of films in competition, the Young Film Forum independently offers 40 or more new works. There are market and information screenings, and a special survey of new German productions, while the retrospectives (this year Marlene Dietrich in *"Fanny"* in the films of the Third Reich) provide unflinching solace when the new films get too stressful.

Even allowing for repeat shows, the average of 40 screenings a day means that however frustrated by the impossibility of seeing everything you are not easily bored in Berlin.

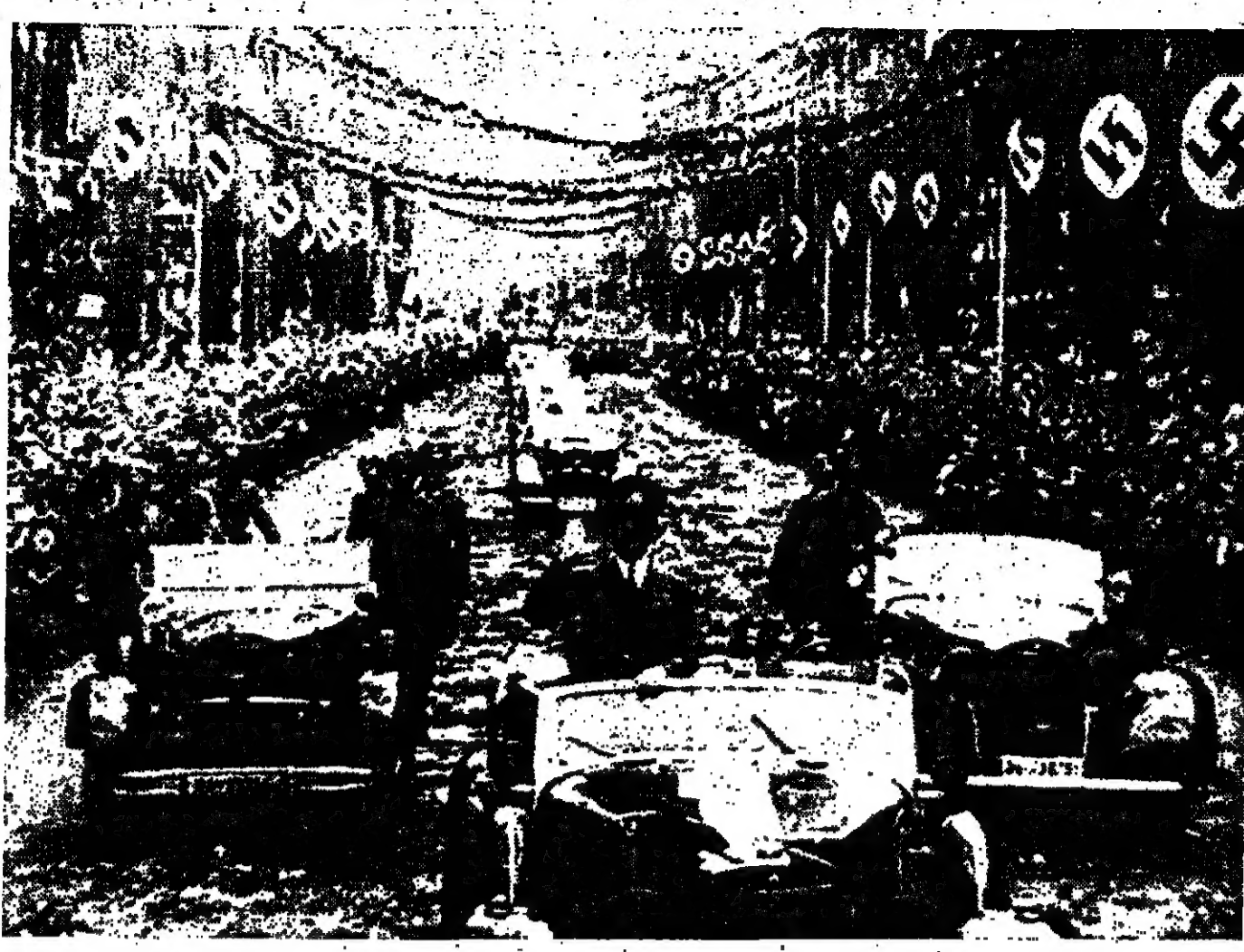
Is it some historical signal that Hitler and his war and the unsolved moral riddles posed by his life and times dominated this festival as they have no other in memory? *Hitler—the Karrier* is a compilation by Joachim C. Fest and Christian Herberich, based on Fest's best-selling biography; it proves the justice of the German director Hans Jürgen Syberberg's dictum that Hitler was the greatest film maker. No one has ever used film to greater propaganda effect. Fest and Herberich's documents show how from the very first days the activities of the Third Reich were captured on film, not just in the catch-as-catch-can way of newsreels, but with all the care and production of feature films.

The endless processions and parades and demonstrations are filmed with the glamorous composition of a *Betty Bonheur* musical, with reaction shots of the rapturous and grateful populace (whether of Berlin or Vienna or Prague) cut in.

Very different documents appear in the Israeli-French co-production, *Les laissons pas les morts enterrer les morts*, assembled by a group of Israeli directors. Here the documents are for the most part much more familiar—the ghastly scenes of the humiliations of the Warsaw ghetto (filmed by an inquisitive amateur cameraman of the SS) and of the camps. The film gives new significance to scenes which from familiarity have acquired a hieratic and abstract quality.

Here they are assembled in a logical narrative, the contemporary provided by testimonies of witnesses at the Eichmann trial. The scenes on the film are now identified as real-life events. Their journeys and their destination (usually the common one) are exactly described. The film allows no escape: this is our world.

In *Aus dem Deutschen Leben* (The German Life), a film by Hans Jürgen Syberberg, the director explores the enigma of how such things came to be. The film is based on Robert Marber's *Le mort est mon métier* and on the actual confession of Rudolf Hees, the



Hitler—eine Karriere

commandant of Auschwitz, who was also the original of the Marber novel.

Katily gives his hero a fictional name (Franz Lang) but a real being as the man who zealously planned and carried out the Auschwitz extermination programme. He invents or speculates only in regard to the psychological evolution of the protagonist, a disillusioned ex-soldier in 1918, looking to the Free Corps to build the new Germany, readily conforming to the ideologies and the butchery of the SS. By the time he has risen to such a rank that he is personally picked by Hitler to initiate the Auschwitz exterminations, he has lost all possibility of resistance or individual moral action. He is activated only by obedience and a desire to please his superiors. The horror of the film is that there are no dramatic, just a man who from sheer dullness and doubtful conformity unquestioningly and without emotion undertakes the role of mass murderer.

In *The Fifth Seal* the veteran Hungarian director Zoltan Pabst questions the merits of blind heroism and expeditious compromise, when the compromise may lose a soul but save the lives of others. In *Attention* (Cologne), a film by a better-known director, the gifted and controversial Hungarian director László Szabó treats a story of passion and collaboration as a parallel of Christ's betrayal, passion and crucifixion. This, and the recognition that these were collaborators in wartime, Russia, makes the film a notable departure in style, film production, even though to Western eyes, the anecdotal treatment seems simplistic. Szabó's style is less honest a bravura style than his not frequently been seen in recent socialist cinema.

Based on a Bournemouth crime passionnel of the 1930s, *Cause Célèbre* shows the author of *The Winslow Boy* again putting new life into the despatch genre of courtroom drama.

Alma Rattenbury, unkindly described as a "yompo dipo son writer", engages a 17-year-old boy as a chauffeur and bed companion in place of her rickety old husband, who is later found battered to death with a mallet.

Most of the standard elements crop up in the ensuing murder investigation. Nobody gets to say, "I put it to you," but there is a Sergeant Plod on the spot, notebook at the ready, plus comic sparring between the defence and the prosecution, and a spinsterish old judge who does the black cap in a long-held pause.

All of which tells you precisely nothing about the means with which Rattenbury has animated these stereotypes. Adrian Vaux's set, a multiple assembly of acting areas whose shabby panelling serves equally for the courtroom and the run-down Bournemouth villa, tells you rather more.

I have never seen a piece that relied more on flashbacks; nor one in which this often irritating device is more successful in advancing the action. The play offers a perfectly coherent picture, smashed to fragments and regrouped into a mosaic for the sake of maximum suspense and maximum revelation of character.

One tiny example is that of George, the juvenile lover. Arriving in old clothes to apply for the job, he is sighted to be admitted as a "six" by one of Alma's children, and after the murder he is equally startled when a barrister asks for his instructions: two details that prepare the way for his delight in being whisked off to hotels, and his capacity to dominate a woman twice his age.

The trial itself thus becomes a focus for surrounding public attitudes, and for the callous

sportsmanship of the law, most zealously embodied in Kenneth Griffith's defence counsel, a fighting Irish advocate who wears his slippers into court to compensate for the discomfort of a wig, and who takes on the character of his client in off-stage professional discussions.

The message, that conventional vice often carries more human generosity than conventional virtue, will send no eyebrows shooting up. But if it needs to be re-proved, Robin Midgley's production certainly does the job; thanks, above all, to Glynnis Johns, a figure

constitutionally incapable of kindness, who begins the evening in silk pyjamas bubbling with sensual invigilation and gradually freezes into withdrawal and desperate silence.

It is a performance of much fun and great dignity; an addition, no doubt, to Rattenbury's gallery of wounded ladies, but not to be faulted for sentimentality. You can believe that she would have Peggy Aitchison's hands are wretched eating out of her hand, and that she would have scribbled the extremely moving notes on which the play ends.

From East Germany, Konrad Wolf's *Mama, ich liebe dich* deals with a story of German soldiers of the Red Army joining up with the Soviet army at the end of the war, which might all too easily have become just another tract on DDR-USSR solidarity. Instead it turns out an unusually human and delicate treatment of individual and national feelings. Wolf, perhaps the most talented director to have emerged in the East German cinema, was the subject of a special retrospective during the festival.

The most portentous Hitler film, as it happened, never turned up in Berlin. Hans Jürgen Syberberg had announced his intention of bringing further episodes of his massive *Adolf Hitler—A Film Made in Germany*, of which he had shown an hour at Cannes, stating that the hostile reception to his work by German critics had led him to withdraw the film and to depart the German film scene.

"I have nothing more in common with these people. Why should I, and what use or pleasure is it to anyone? We are living in a dead land."

Even with Syberberg's threat of withdrawal, the New German Cinema shows no signs of running dry. I have already reviewed the latest films of Wim Wenders (*The American Friend*) and Werner Herzog (*Stroszek*) from Cannes, and R. W. Fassbinder's *Chinese Roulette* from Paris; all three were included in the programme of New German Cinema.

The Iranian-born director Sohrab Shahid Saless intends *Tagebuch eines Liebenden* as the second part of a trilogy that began with *Reifezeit* (*Time of Maturity*). The young boy of

that film is now seen grown up to be a butcher. Sales observes, with the cool poise of an entomologist, his retreat into manic solitude, after his murder of his girl friend.

Sales's curious and attentive observation inevitably invites the epithet *Chekhovian*. So in a different way does the affectionate feeling for human idiosyncrasy and caprice of Erwin Keusch's first feature film *Das Brot des Bäckers*. Here the loosely woven narrative about a baker's wayward apprentice is used to explore some of the declining values of contemporary living.

The boy's growing engagement with his employer's standards of his fine bakery despite the encroachments of mechanization is much more than a drama about the loss of years of the Revolution (whose sixtieth anniversary was celebrated in yet another special film series in Berlin). His idealistic rejection of bourgeois notions of love and marriage is rather rapidly shattered by the reality of a grand passion.

After that he comes to discover that ideals and the caprices of the human heart are rarely in union.

Gleb Panfilov's *I demand to speak* deals with a court case, about a dutiful

housewife (Inna Churikova, the director's wife) who is elected mayor of a provincial city only to experience the frustrations of procrastination, indifference and corruption. Panfilov is no sexual egalitarian: "Women have greater inner strength, greater wealth of feeling and greater intellectual flexibility than men."

The French, finally, had two competition entries. François Truffaut's *L'homme qui aimait les femmes* seemed a slighter and less attractive anecdote even than *Small Change*, his last year's Berlin entry; but Robert Bresson's *Le diable* is one of the most extraordinary of that singular and uncompromising creator's studies of people in quest of salvation. The title of the film is the answer someone gives to speculation about the force that inflicts so much trouble on the world.

Bresson reflects a universe destroying itself by its own sinful greed, rapidly degrading or polluting every natural gift within it. His young hero sees no solution or escape. A Pauline hippie, he despairs of revolutionary answers, personal or psychiatric. He purchases the silence and only salvation, paying another young hippie to shoot him dead. This is one of the most austere of Bresson films. The playing is reduced to minimal means; the dialogue is dry and spare; characteristically one character will ask "Pourquoi?" but no one answers. Yet it is through this stripping bare his means that Bresson works his miracle of intimating the working not just of minds, but of souls.

David Robinson

## Power and passion

## Nureyev Festival Coliseum

John Percival  
If there is any legal way you can lay hands on a ticket for the Coliseum this week, I strongly recommend you to take it. Victor Hochhauser, who is presenting the Nureyev Festival there, came in for a lot of stick about the prices; but the rate at which the seats were snapped up suggests that the public knows a bargain when it sees one.

The climax of the programme brings together again two of the legendary performances of our lifetime: Fonteyn and Nureyev in Ashton's *Marguerite and Armand*. Although the gigantic photographs forming part of Cecil Beaton's decor remind us that they looked younger when they first danced it in 1963, the power and passion remain, even in some respects enhanced. The love duet in the country moves with the tranquil ease that comes of long familiarity, and Fonteyn's distress after the insult is more impetuous than ever.

Michael Somes and Leslie Edwards ensure that the smaller roles carry their full point. Edwards also recruited and trained the supporting male ensemble. Dudley Simpson has made a new, lighter orchestration of Liszt's B minor sonata. The climax of the last scene could perhaps do with more instrumental weight, but the earlier episodes benefit from allowing the piano to carry much of the emotion in an able performance by Philip Gammon, with Barry Wordsworth conducting the Festival Ballet Orchestra.

To begin the evening, Fonteyn danced the prelude solo in a production of *Les Sylphides* with Natalia Makarova and Nureyev in the mazurkas and pas de deux and Lynn Seymour

as the waltz soloist. Later in the week, this constellation will probably be more brightly together, even if, in a narrative performance, a little of the brilliance, most lambent in the way Fonteyn's head led her movements. For Makarova and Nureyev it was another first time together in a work that suits them both.

Marina Stawitskaya has revived the work, achieving a good sense of unity in a specially assembled corps de ballet, especially in Richard Caswell's unorthodox but well-judged sunset lighting.

Between the two main works, a couple of party pieces gave a gala flavour to a well balanced and satisfying programme. Another chance to see the Brahms Waltzes, which Ashton staged in the manner of Isadora Duncan for Seymour, is always welcome, and she danced them in splendid form. What pretty feet she has when barefoot! If Isadora looked so, one can understand why she was eager to be rid of her shoes.

For sheer razzle-dazzle, it is difficult to beat Nureyev in the *Corsair pas de deux*, and Makarova as his new partner for this gives him an exhilarating run for his money. She could try wearing her pillbox hat at a more flattering angle, perhaps, instead of square on the top of her head; but otherwise her performance is stylish, pretty and full of immense good humour. The only fact, for the light dash of Nureyev's enraptured slave, hurrying round the stage in great arcs before falling at his ballerina's feet.

## Mr Polly Churchill, Bromley

Ned Chafflet  
A musical with a massive cast to match the massive structure of the Churchill Theatre must have seemed a good idea for the opening of Bromley's new theatre. The idea of adapting a novel by H. G. Wells, one of Bromley's prodigal sons, must also have seemed to hold great promise.

Considering the sorry state of British musicals and the understandable lack of support for them there can be no doubt that the decision to present Ted Willis's version of *The History of Mr Polly* was brave.

Bravery, alas, has not saved the day for the theatre. Although Mr Polly has not yet settled in and can only improve, having been bedevilled by the problems that new theatres always encounter, nothing in the performances suggests to me that it will get very much better.

Mr Polly's history makes an affectionate look at a young man, a dreamer, snared by matrimony and his dreams lost to reality before finding an escape from marriage, later finding apparent happiness.

Roy Castle takes on the task of creating Alfred Polly. While Mr Polly's character as he has seemed shorter, it felt like no more than two days to me.

## The Damned Marquee

Richard Williams  
Some commentators are presently announcing that Punk Rock should be heard in clubs, rather than on record for only in such proximity can that young British music be heard to the full. That is, of course, outright nonsense: like all previous forms of rock, the punks work best when confined to vinyl, wherein their gestures can be compressed, calibrated and exploited for maximum effect.

A Punk Rock concert is simply the latest-day equivalent of the old art school hops, pitched at a slightly different social level. It is unashamedly an opportunity to wear fancy dress, to jump up and down oblivious of the welfare of one's neighbour and to score points for the best combination of pose and costume.

At the Damned's latest metropolitan engagement last night the most amusing entertainment was provided by a person who wore a nylon stocking over his head and stood motionless for what seemed like hours; I was about to inquire the size of his Arts Council bursary until he

judged, so that however complex the texture your ear was never in the wrong place. Both players, too, did all that could be done in the way of keyboard orchestration. Most important of all, they felt the music in the same way, as the intimate exchanges in the middle of the first piece made clear.

Though finished only four years after Rachmaninov's Dances, Stravinsky's Sonata for Two Pianos belongs to an entirely different, neo-classical, world.

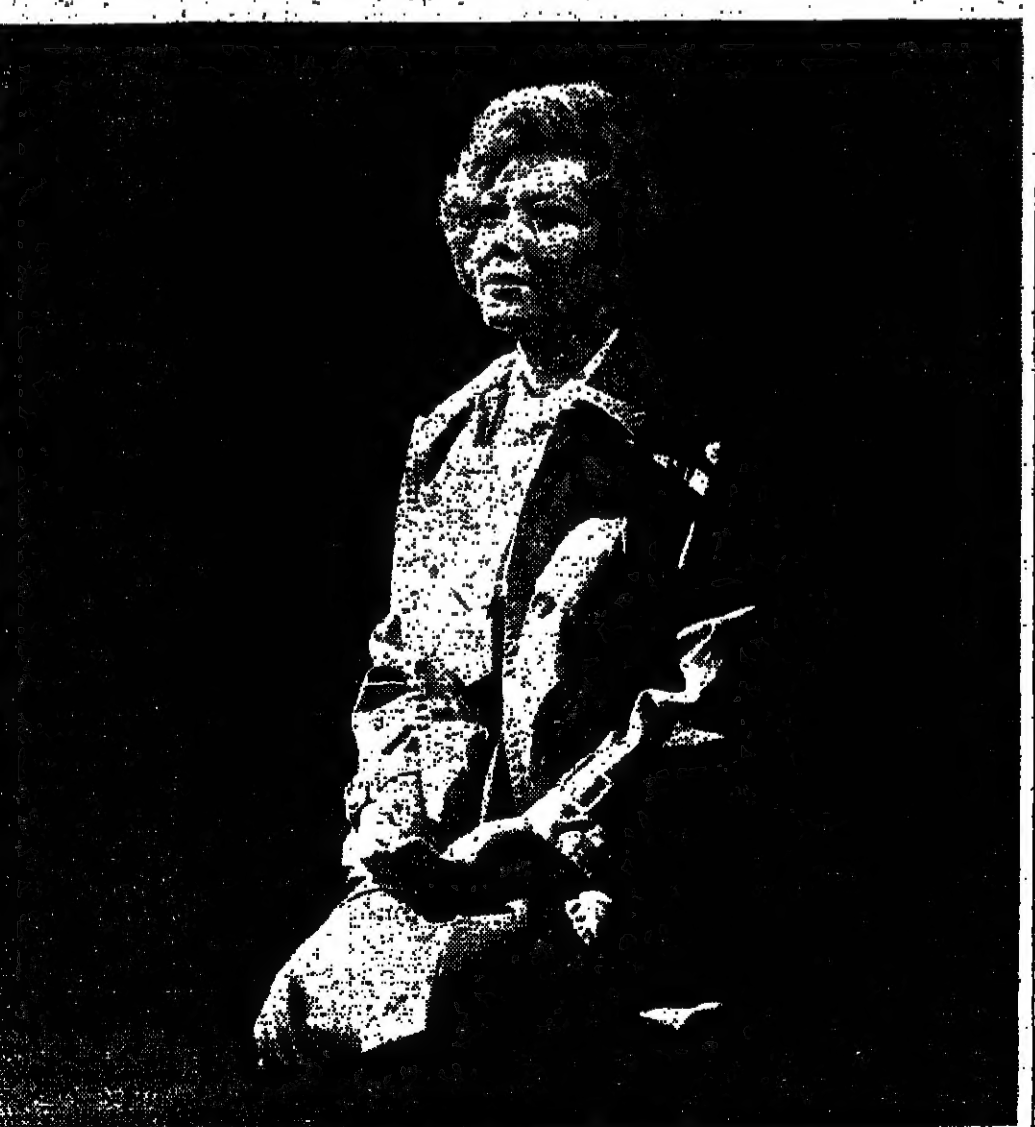
Yet here, too, the players were just adroit in defining thematic strands as they were winning in characterization. Brahms's F minor Sonata was redeemed by an affectionately phrased *andante*. Elsewhere there was less than the true burning intensity beneath the rhythmic drive. Even tone here lacked automatic, Brahmsian depth. When you scarcely missed all the instruments of Rachmaninov's large orchestra, here you pinned for the four strings of Brahms's eventual quintet version of this Op 34.

Shelley/Macnamara Wigmor Hall

Joan Chissell  
Howard Shelley's feeling for Rachmaninov is well-known: A performance of the *Corelli Variations* a year or two ago still remains one of the finest things he has yet given us on the London platform. So it was no surprise to find this composer occupying the central place in his two-piano recital given here with his wife, Hilary Macnamara. Their choice fell not on either of the popular Suites, but the keyboard version of the orchestral *Symphonic Dances*, Op 45, a late work that can easily sound pronounced in black and white.

Nothing in the programme did more to prove their close relationship than the first and most obvious rest came in timing. The dances abound in bric-a-brac placed chords, which were all well enough synchronized to seem as if coming from one pair of hands rather than two. Balance was equally well

## New life in courtroom drama



Glynnis Johns

But the main justification of the mosaic method is that Rattenbury has two stories to tell: not only that of Alma, but that of a frigidly prejudiced woman juror who views the case as a mother with a 17-year-old son of her own. Helen Lindsay plays her as a pillar of Bournemouth gentility, surrounded by droll young men friends who are taking bets on Alma's conviction, and who refuses to let her occasionally unfaithful husband set foot in the house.

The trial itself thus becomes a focus for surrounding public attitudes, and for the callous

sportsmanship of the law, most zealously embodied in Kenneth Griffith's defence counsel, a fighting Irish advocate who wears his slippers into court to compensate for the discomfort of a wig, and who takes on the character of his client in off-stage professional discussions.

The message, that conventional vice often carries more human generosity than conventional virtue, will send no eyebrows shooting up. But if it needs to be re-proved, Robin Midgley's production certainly does the job; thanks, above all, to Glynnis Johns's Alma, a figure

constitutionally incapable of kindness, who begins the evening in silk pyjamas bubbling with sensual invigilation and gradually freezes into withdrawal and desperate silence.

It is a performance of much fun and great dignity; an addition, no doubt, to Rattenbury's gallery of wounded ladies, but not to be faulted for sentimentality. You can believe that she would have Peggy Aitchison's hands are wretched eating out of her hand, and that she would have scribbled the extremely moving notes on which the play ends.

## D'Oily Carte Sadler's Wells

Paul Griffiths  
The D'Oily Carte company has returned to London with a production of *The Pirates of Penzance* which surely delighted the habitués, but which left me feeling an outsider at a gathering of old friends. By now the production is not so much a performance as a repetition which, so it seems, must contain the same moves, the same gestures, the same facial expressions, the same encores, perhaps the faithful would not be satisfied otherwise, but I doubt that this smug kind of show will gain new admirers for Gilbert and Sullivan.

It might have been possible to forgive, if not to overlook, the self-satisfaction of those taking part if only there had been some reason for it. But in general there was not. To be sure, the orchestra played neatly and smartly, under Royston Nash. Merton Reid, as Frederic, was also not beyond redemption. He seemed innocent of the camp assurance around him, and even if his singing was not so very pure, at least it was better than average for the evening.

The heroine, Julia Goss, produced a thin, squawky tone which was not at all pleasant to listen to, especially when one was forced to hear it again in an encore.

James Conroy-Ward, playing the major-general, was passable, but his delivery of his patter song was certainly not of the quality to merit the rapturous reception it received. Lyndie Holland, as Ruth, could not get more than one word in ten across to the dress circle, which I would not have minded so much if her voice had had any degree of character. John Aydon, and Jon Ellison were the Pirate King and his lieutenant, both capable of vocal improvement, both playing very obviously for the regulars.

I am sorry to be so damning of an evening that was clearly enjoyed by so many, but I cannot believe that the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas are best served in this manner. W. S. Gilbert, the satirist of convention, should be living at this hour.

Shelley/Macnamara Wigmor Hall

Joan Chissell  
Howard Shelley's feeling for Rachmaninov is well-known: A performance of the *Corelli Variations* a year or two ago still remains one of the finest things he has yet given us on the London platform. So it was no surprise to find this composer occupying the central place in his two-piano recital given here with his wife, Hilary Macnamara. Their choice fell not on either of the popular Suites, but the keyboard version of the orchestral *Symphonic Dances*, Op 45, a late work that can easily sound pronounced in black and white.

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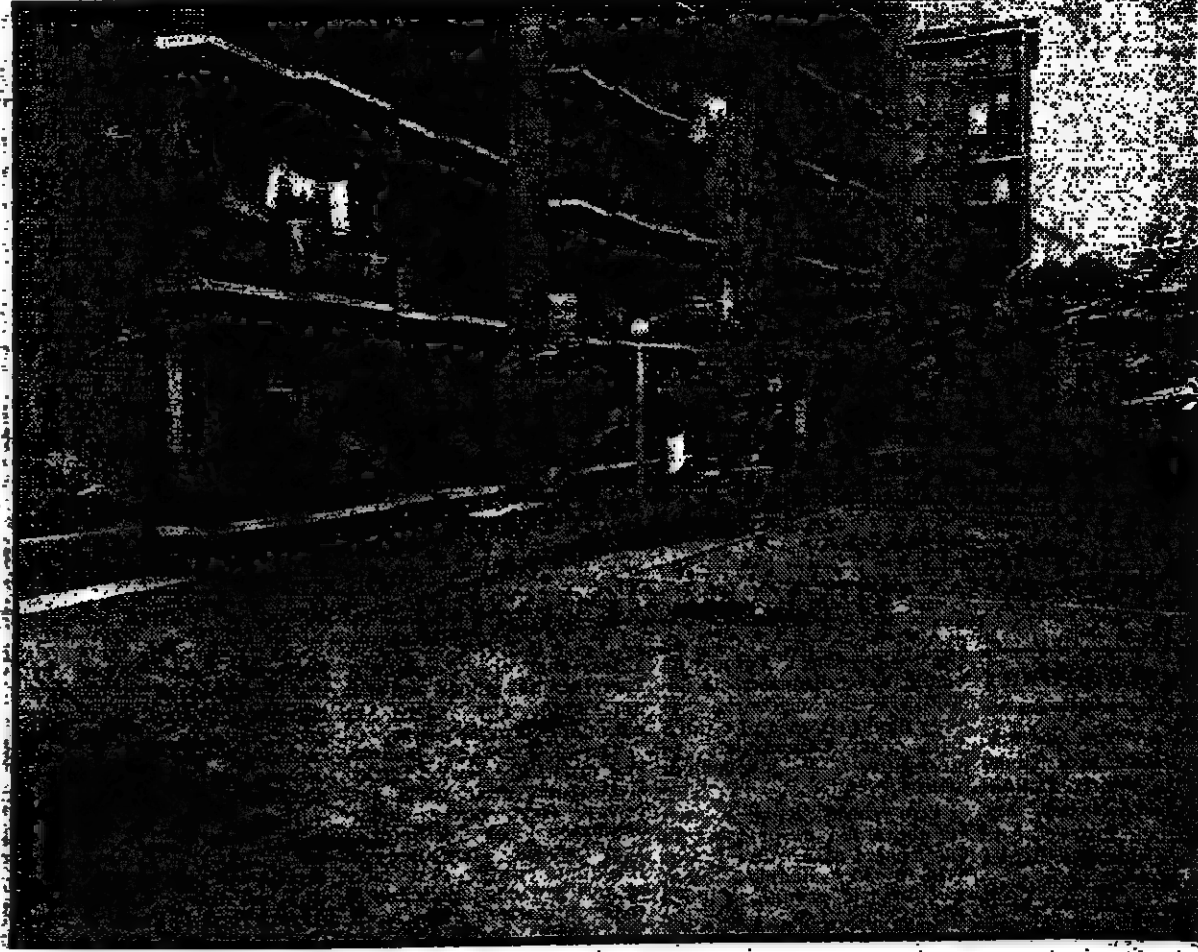








Newspapers are publishing more of the information that was previously confined to cocktail parties like this one in Milan. Right: Flats on the outskirts of Rome, where pressure groups are demanding improvements such as parks.

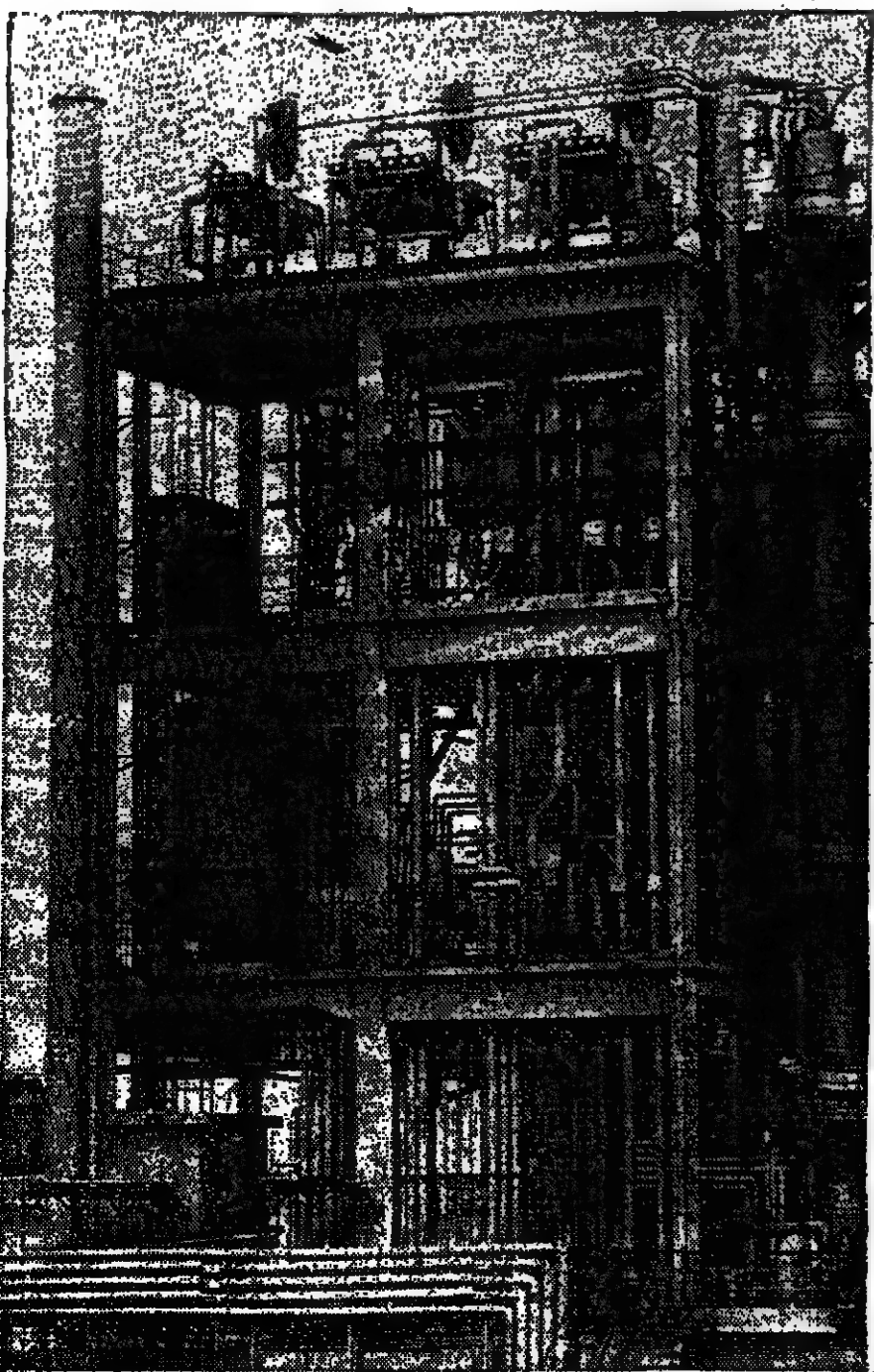


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## People power bursts into flower

by Patricia Clough

A superficial glance at the news from Italy might give the impression of a country disintegrating amid violence; of kidnappings, terrorism, corruption and subversive plots while politicians argue. Much less headline catching but equally significant is a current of change running in the opposite direction. There is strong pressure for a more transparent conduct of public affairs, more efficient government, a more direct participation by ordinary people in public life and greater freedom for the individual. The increasing support for the Communists, with their reputation for honesty and efficiency, is the most striking evidence of these changes. The speed of change during the past decade has been breathtaking. Time and again Italians have found themselves with major innovations, such as the introduction of divorce, which three or four years earlier would have been unthinkable. Often the impetus is so great that from a position of backwardness Italy ends up in advance of more developed European countries. This has been the case, for instance, with the new family code, parent participation in schools and, assuming it will be passed, the reform of the abortion laws. One of the more important changes, which in turn acted as a catalyst for further developments, was in the press. Ten years ago it was difficult for an ordinary reader to understand what was really happening in Italy from opaque and uninformative newspaper reports. One English visitor once wrote to a newspaper asking why journalists did not publish the fascinating information they divulged at cocktail parties. Two lively news magazines, *L'Espresso* and *Parosoma*, set the tone by juggling with each other to

reveal only plots, corruption and other scandals. An attempt by some politicians, with the help of compliant industrialists, to gain control over a number of leading papers led journalists to make a tough stand for press freedom. As a result journalists now have an important voice in the editorial policy of their papers. Even politically troublesome news gets published, events are better explained and issues debated at length. A slower metamorphosis has been making place in the broadcasting company RAI, which for many Italians is the only source of news. Until recently it was almost a government mouthpiece which kept listeners and viewers only dimly aware in 1976, for instance, that a serious revolt was in progress at Reggio Calabria or, later, that a campaign was in progress to legislate divorce. After strong pressure from both outside and in, and a constitutional court ruling that broadcasting should reflect the "pluralism" of political opinion in Italy, broadcasting has been divided into competing channels. Catholic and lay-oriented. The results have been livelier and more informative reporting. The greater sensitivity of the media has served to reflect the public's growing impatience with the corruption and dishonest administration of the past 15 years or so. The success of scandals does little credit to the country, but the very fact that they have come out into the open is in itself a healthy sign. The Christian Democrats and their former coalition partners have openly recognized the need for a clean-up in their ranks, but removing firmly entrenched politicians with large followings at home is not easily done. One of the least-chronicled developments in recent years has been the formation of citizens' committees in the various quarters of the cities and towns. At present, life, particularly in Rome, because less and less bearable,

groups got together to fight building speculation, demand parks, schools and day nurseries in their areas and plant trees on waste land. Their efforts may not impress in countries such as Britain with a long tradition of voluntary associations and pressure groups. But in a country long accustomed to being ruled from above, where civic-mindedness is not one of the traditional national virtues, it is a promising new development in local democracy. At the same time millions of parents are participating for the first time in the running of their children's schools. Parents, teachers, pupils' representatives are sitting on class, school and local education committees set up to "democratize" school government, previously left entirely in the often authoritarian hands of headmasters and the Education Ministry. One by one limitations on the rights of individuals have fallen away. The new family code has ended the wife's legal inferiority to her husband; the legalization of divorce was, among other things, the recognition of real-life problems of millions of citizens as opposed to abstract principles. The pro-abortion campaigners see their cause as a battle for women's right to decide whether or not to have a child—abortion, still a widespread form of birth control here—and to risk jail or mutilation if they practice clandestine procedures. The radicalism of Italian feminist groups is a reaction against the degradation of submission traditions expected of Italian women. The same pressure is recognition of the individual's rights and problems evident in the police who are demanding a reform of their force, with its insistence on military obedience and, for a union as an out for long pent-up feelings and suggestions. To a much lesser degree similar demands have been heard among members of the armed forces.

## The press: a view from the right

## Independent newspapers send out alarm signals

by Indro Montanelli

The Italian press is free or, to be more precise, the Italian press is still free. The governments that have run Italy since the last war have endless sins of commission and above all omission on their consciences. If they had not we should now be in a very different situation, and our friends all over the world would not be watching, with bated breath, the dangerous high-wire acrobatics that the country is performing on the tight-rope of the "historic compromise", the pact of alliance, or collaboration, between the Christian Democrats and the Communist Party. But, among so many faults, we must still give those governments credit for having safeguarded the essence of our democratic institutions, and, with these, the independence and plurality of the sources of information. Both their independence and their plurality are limited, and neither is without its defects, some of them grave. This is true everywhere, even in Britain. However, Italian public opinion is adequately informed on what happens at home and abroad. The press is free because the dyke protecting the democratic institutions has so far held. But alarming symptoms are multiplying, the dyke is being infiltrated and cracks are appearing. Sinner creaking can be heard which, to a superficial ear, may seem of little account. The structure seems solid; the valley beyond is dry. But the massive forces that are applying pressure to open up a breach and force their way through have already made substantial progress. Recently the Italian daily press has been in grievous financial difficulties, and in 1976 showed a total deficit of 150,000 lire; and this vast mass of debts will probably grow still further in 1977. This is not a national phenomenon, but an international one. In Italy the price of newspapers is frozen, and the Government, after keeping it for many months at 150 lire—little more than half the real cost—allowed an increase to 200 lire, which has already been absorbed by increases in the cost of such items as paper and wages. Several newspapers, among them some quite well known, have died; others are in great danger. And, because they have no independent means, those newspapers that are still alive are obliged to have "protectors". They usually get in the way, and are never disinterested. All this is part of the pathology of industry and information alike. The reform of the press must follow the reform of business. But, if I am to be sincere, I must say that there are other aspects of the Italian press that seem to me more insidious and more closely linked with our political situation. I do not believe that quantity of newspapers can be equated with plurality of information. The situation in totalitarian countries, some of which are teeming with newspapers, shows that all too clearly. If all the newspapers say the same thing, then, even if there are 1,000 of them, the result is still the same: there is only one paper, in 1,000 disguises. I think that the Italian press is sliding down a dangerous slope, because of the combined action of three factors: conformism, demagoguery and intimidation. I do not know whether there are more opportunities in Italy than elsewhere. On the other hand, I do know for certain that many opportunists think they have found a haven for their fears, and for their ambitions, in the Communist Party, which is on the march of power. No one seriously believes that the Italian Communist Party (PCI) has a liberal conception of the function of the press. In the Eurocommunist version, power might be less brutal than in the East. It would probably not impose

the loaded typographical greyness of *Pravda*, nor boycott the *Corriere*, nor the reports of crimes and misdeeds of every kind—so radically. But it is easy to imagine—and we have already seen the first symptoms in the public attitudes and the programmes of fellow-travelling groups—how difficult the life of dissidents would be. Their criticism, since it would be "unconstructive", "reactionary", and, in the last resort, "fascist", would be stamped as sabotage. And so, today, a number of journalists with sensitive antennae have already adapted to the wishes of their next boss. They have been in less of a hurry since the elections of June 20 1976 which showed that there was more vitality remaining in the Christian Democrats than had been suspected, but another election, with substantial communist gains, or, more simply, the appointment of communists to important ministries, would be many doubts convinced. Already, with due exceptions, there is apparent in the self-styled independent Italian press a fearful, flabby, uncritical acceptance of, or benevolence towards, the PCI, even when it does not deserve it. To save their faces, probably, these newspapers may attack the other communists; but Eurocommunism is, for them, totally above suspicion. In the past, newspaper proprietors tended to buy and keep the consciences of the journalists along with the papers. Coercion of this kind is not entirely ceased, but it is becoming very much less frequent in Italy because the journalists have claimed independence and professional dignity for themselves, with some success. However, they have jumped out of the frying pan into the fire, because the committees which defend the journalists' trade union interests have all too often turned into soviet which raise the banner of a vague and whimsical progressivism, and which distort, manipulate, and direct far more than the employers would dare to. Striking examples of this that have occurred in various dailies, and in particular that of trust of thoroughbred, the *Corriere della Sera*, confirms this statement beyond any shadow of doubt. Another pressure comes from below: from the print workers, who are manoeuvred very largely by the Italian Confederation of Labour, the trade union arm of the Communist Party. Hitherto, their attempts at censorship have been only partial and sporadic, not only so that the PCI's claims to democratic pluralism should not be too loudly contradicted, but also because some editors of daily newspapers, or in their vicinity and black lists of some of the best-known journalists are found in police raids on

lairs of revolutionary extremists. The knowledge that they are the targets of guerrilla action, as senseless and unpredictable as it is cruel, does not invite journalists to take "up an open position. I think you have to understand them—or, rather, understand us. This is why, in the shelter of a dyke that is still holding, but in an atmosphere of anxiety, foreboding, resignation for some, fear for others and hope for a few (those who want totalitarianism are a minority), the Italian press is in a bad way. In its ranks, through cowardice more than conviction, there are friends of the enemy. Even the *Federazione della Stampa*, which ought to be the representative organ for us journalists, has asked for a gag to be put on Tele Montecarlo, a free television station on which I and some of my colleagues broadcast political commentary. Or dissenting voices, which in a chorus that is increasingly unanimous, cause indignation. But information, not La Scala; it is a gathering for there to be no discordant notes in a chorus. Indeed, the more there are, the better it is.

Indro Montanelli is one of Italy's best-known journalists, broadcasters and popular historians. Formerly columnist on the *Corriere della Sera*, he left in 1976 to found *Il Giornale* (now *Il Giornale*)—a newspaper which has since provided a consistent and outspoken platform for opposition to the rising influence of the Italian Communist Party. On June 2 this year he was shot in the leg by terrorists of the far-left Brigades.

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## Unions take a close look at their future roles

by John Earle

The structure of wages in Italy, in which immediate payments are mixed with an elaborate system of deferred benefits, has grown out of date. It tends up by acting as a brake on progress or, to quote Signor Luciano Lama, the Communist union leader, "as a factor for conservation".

This argument opened a report in the Communist *L'Unità* during the national congress in Rimini in June of CGIL (Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro), the Communist Socialist confederation of 4,300,000 members headed by Signor Lama.

The report described how CGIL leaders intend pressing to get wage structures rationalized. They recognize that the trend towards egalitarianism has been over-emphasized and would favour greater rewards for the skilled, but above all they want to prune the jungle of extra monthly wages, deferred severance payments, fringe benefits and all kinds of bonuses—such as the *indennità di presenza* or bonus for just turning up to work—so that the workers' remuneration will come primarily in the form of wages.

The rationalization of wage structures has been discussed particularly keenly inside CGIL, but the leaders of all main movements admit that gains from industrial aspirations in the past may militate against efficiency and productivity. For some years the unions have moved beyond the *vecchio* is sometimes called *vecchio* for more money, like the British style, in the belief that if one worker gets more lire or pounds in his pocket, the other economic problems can take

care of themselves.

Union leaders try to take a global view of the economy and the worker's place in it, and in their speeches devote many words, sometimes too many, to analysing the problems of economic planning, capital investment, development of the Mezzogiorno, employment levels, environmental and working conditions, and so on. In the negotiations under way with many employers in recent months, wage demands have usually been modest and of almost secondary priority.

Nevertheless, the union movement this summer gives the impression of not being sure where to go next. The three big confederations have recently been holding their congresses, first CGIL, then the Roman Catholic inspired CISL (Confederazione Italiana dei Sindacati dei Lavoratori) with 2,800,000 members, and last the Socialist Republican Social Democrat UIL (Unione Italiana del Lavoro) with about a million members.

They represent the great mass of organized labour, though the extreme right wing has its trade union offshoot CISNAL, and some nominally independent "autonomous" unions exist, mainly in white collar professions and services. The three congresses were useful in stimulating reflection on the unions' roles and aims in society, but no clear strategy emerged from them all.

It was already evident before the congresses, however, that there is no longer the same momentum towards full unity between the three movements, which averted the confederations after the 1969 "hot autumn" strikes, and prompted them over-optimistically to set target dates for mergers in the early 1970s. The recent circuit more lire or pounds in his pocket, the other economic problems can take



Workers demonstrating outside the Fiat factory in Turin.

Of the three secretaries who for years used to work as a team, only Signor Lama remains. At CISL Signor Luigi Macario has replaced Signor Bruno Sordi, who left to become president of the National Council for the Economy and Labour, an advisory body to Government and Parliament. At UIL, the Republican Signor Raffaele Vanni, who last September by a Socialist, Signor Giorgio Benvenuto, CGIL, in which Communists outnumber Socialists by about two to one, supports on the trade union level the Communist's towards government. Signor Benvenuto has shown himself more dynamic than his

predecessor and UIL has taken a different stand on occasions to CGIL.

But the most pronounced differences have come to the fore inside CISL, which has split into two factions. The congress showed that a minority right wing, more closely linked to the Christian Democrats under Signor Franco Marini, holds 43 per cent, while the remaining 57 per cent supports a less politically affiliated left wing under Signor Macario.

At the same time, the union movement's difficulties should not be overestimated. In CISL, matters are unlikely to be pushed as far as

a breakaway in the three confederations, the leadership still largely command the loyalty of rank and file, and organized labour as a whole is proving one of the more solid obstacles to the wave of political violence and terrorism.

Speculation that Italy is taking the road to South America gives too little weight to trade unionism which, incidentally, has little in common with the Peronist version in Argentina.

The unions continue to stage industrial action in common. They have kept up pressure on Government and employers for the maintenance of job levels, capital investment programmes, dev-

elopment of the Mezzogiorno, and other issues. They have won far-reaching rights of information from management about capital investment and production policies.

Many union leaders are cool towards workers' participation in management, for the very reason that they feel the rights they already have exert more influence on economic policy than would seats on company boards.

The next few months, for which the economic indicators point towards recession and rising unemployment, will show if they can maintain their cohesion in practice.

## Banking is facing harsh scrutiny

It is time for the washing in public of the banking system's accounts. That is not to suggest that the institution's edibility has been undermined by scandals, to the degree that appears to have been the case in Switzerland, standards of integrity we, perhaps, never claimed to be so high in Italy in the first place.

But the growing dissatisfaction with the way politics rather than economics count in the system after 30 yrs of Christian Democracy, and critical self-questioning is under way as to how the ledger, at times sordid, can be reformed to meet the country's needs.

Some of the criticism is directed at individuals. Signor Giuseppe Carini, aged 76, the president of the Association of Banks (Associazione Bancaria) and many years

the director-general of the Central Institute of Savings Banks (Iralcasse), has been formally notified by a magistrate that charges are being investigated against him of speculation and falsification of balance sheets. The investigations relate to the alleged financing by oil companies in past years of political parties, particularly of the Christian Democrats.

Signor Ferdinando Ventrone, the former economic adviser to the Christian Democracy leader, Signor Emilio Colombo, and former managing director of Banco di Roma, was a few months ago appointed president of Isvimer, the official lending agency for the development of the south, despite being under a magistrate's investigation for possible charges arising out of the crash of the Sindona empire. Other top Banco di Roma executives of the time have sim-

ilarly received judicial notifications.

In some cases, the banks themselves are affected. For months the communists, conducting a campaign for greater morality in politics, have been making capital out of the changing of office of the board of Banco di Sicilia, despite the expiry of its members' appointments seven years ago. Another important bank in the south, Banco di Napoli, is reported to be under investigation by inspectors from the Bank of Italy.

More than half the chairmanships of the country's 89 savings banks (*casse di risparmio*) have also expired, even if the incumbents continue imperceptibly in office. Many of these posts have become a preserve for political patronage, but the Christian Democrats in their efforts to appoint their new nominees have met strong

resistance from the other parties. The opposition in Parliament has prevailed on the Treasury Minister to issue criteria laying down standards of personal integrity and competence for top banking appointments, though whether future ministers will adhere to them remains to be seen.

Nevertheless the public, which has the highest rate of personal saving in Western Europe, continues to deposit its money with banks. The Bank of Italy, which has far-reaching powers of supervision and technical control over the system, helps to foster public confidence. The Bank of Italy has an executive staff with a professional reputation, people who have so far not been contaminated by the politicians.

Perhaps the most serious result is the distortion in economic activity. Since the

bourses do not fulfil their role as instruments for firms to raise risk capital, the latter are obliged to go to banks whose lending activities, with a few notable exceptions, are influenced by political considerations. The move is towards an increasingly parasitic, non-productive economy in which, during these times of recession and high interest rates, manufacturing firms make losses and banks report good profits.

Industrialists and bankers are well aware of this. At the annual meeting of the Bank of Italy, the governor, Signor Paolo Baffi, drew attention to the danger of making banks lend to loss-making firms with consequent irredeemable or "blocked" debts, saying: "The result is a degradation of banking activity, reduced sometimes to a form of charitable intervention, and an

apparent prosperity of the banking system whose balance sheets expand and to whose accounts show profits attributable partly to the growth of blocked positions."

Signor Baffi made several suggestions for improvement. The decision for granting a loan must rest with the bank, and not be subject to improper conditions. Criteria for top appointments, many of which depend on the authorities, should be revised and based on professional capacity, and if it proved impossible to fill a post within a certain time the Bank of Italy should be allowed to make a temporary nomination. In the interest of rationalization, banking branches in the country should be redistributed, and perhaps slightly increased in number.

J.E.

## Lira lands on its feet

continued from page 1

Successive governments bear their share of responsibility for failing to implement repeated promises to reform the Bourses, which are no longer instruments for raising risk capital but have degenerated into roulette wheels for professional speculators.

The crisis reached a climax in early June, when the stock exchanges were shut for a week, because of a strike by stockbrokers' employees who feared for their jobs, with turnover about a third of normal and prices at their lowest for 22 years.

Italy is like Britain in still not having got inflation down to acceptable levels, although it is already markedly lower than the official 21.6 figure for 1976 and may reach the Government's target of 13 per cent for the 12 months ending next March.

On the other hand the Government has so far failed, where Britain has succeeded, in curbing public spending. This is a task bedevilled by large fixed spending commitments each year, and a bureaucracy which can be counted on to resist passively any rationalization attempts.

On the positive side, Signor Giulio Andreotti's minority Christian Democracy Government can claim some credit for what has been done, thanks to the benevolence of the Communists and other parties in keeping it in office. It has introduced a number of austerity measures, in some of which it has been lucky to have the tacit support of the trade unions, which have softened wage demands.

Not all companies are in such a bad way as some of the big loss makers which have been hitting the headlines. Most of Italian industry is made up of thou-

sands of medium and small firms, many of which count themselves lucky that banks disavow the limited guarantees that they can put up for financing. Hence their profitability has not been eroded to the same extent by short-term debts.

It should not be forgotten that a growing number of people—some estimates say four million—are engaged in moonlighting (piecework at home, or other unofficial work) opposed by the unions as minimum labour standards are usually evaded. Such pursuits are often outside the scope of official statistics, but benefit the economy in a way which cannot be quantified.

If demand at home is falling off, the export of goods and skill and knowledge continues to be a major stimulus for industrial production. Businessmen and officials have been concentrating their resources and residence on the Third World and the communist countries.

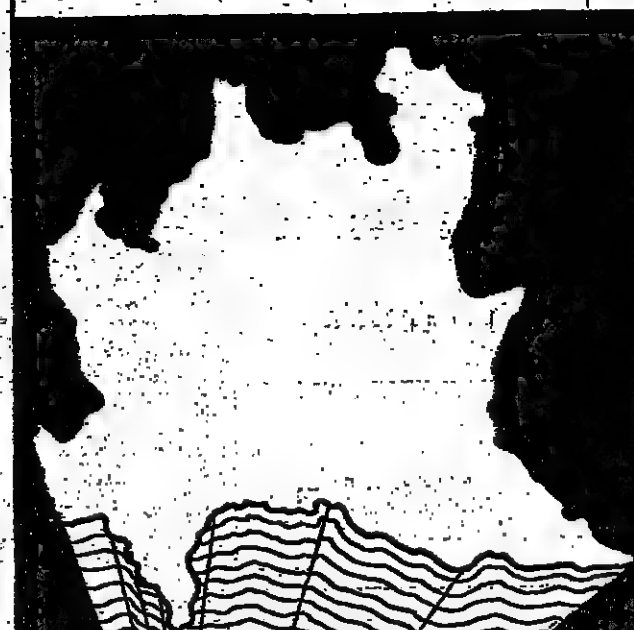
This year it should prove possible to lower the formidable 1976 trade deficit of 5,401,700m lire (£3,601m), a figure which, nevertheless, would have been in surplus but for oil imports. The early months of this year have shown encouraging increases in exports over imports.

Signor Rinaldo Ossola, the Foreign Trade Minister, has been urging people to "Buy Italian" and avoid the import of unnecessary foreign goods. His appeal has met a critical reception in the business world, where it is pointed out that if successful it could expose the country to retaliation from other countries, in which Italy would be the loser.

It has also evoked little response from the public in a country second only to the United States for imports of whisky and Rolls-Royces. For many Italians, life can still be worth living without essentials, but not without luxuries.

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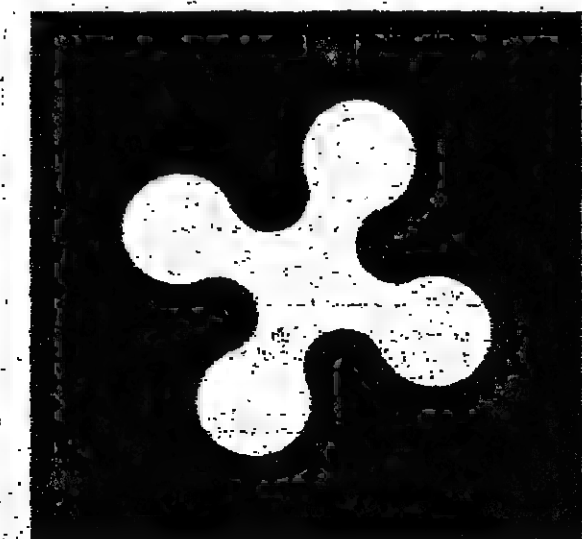
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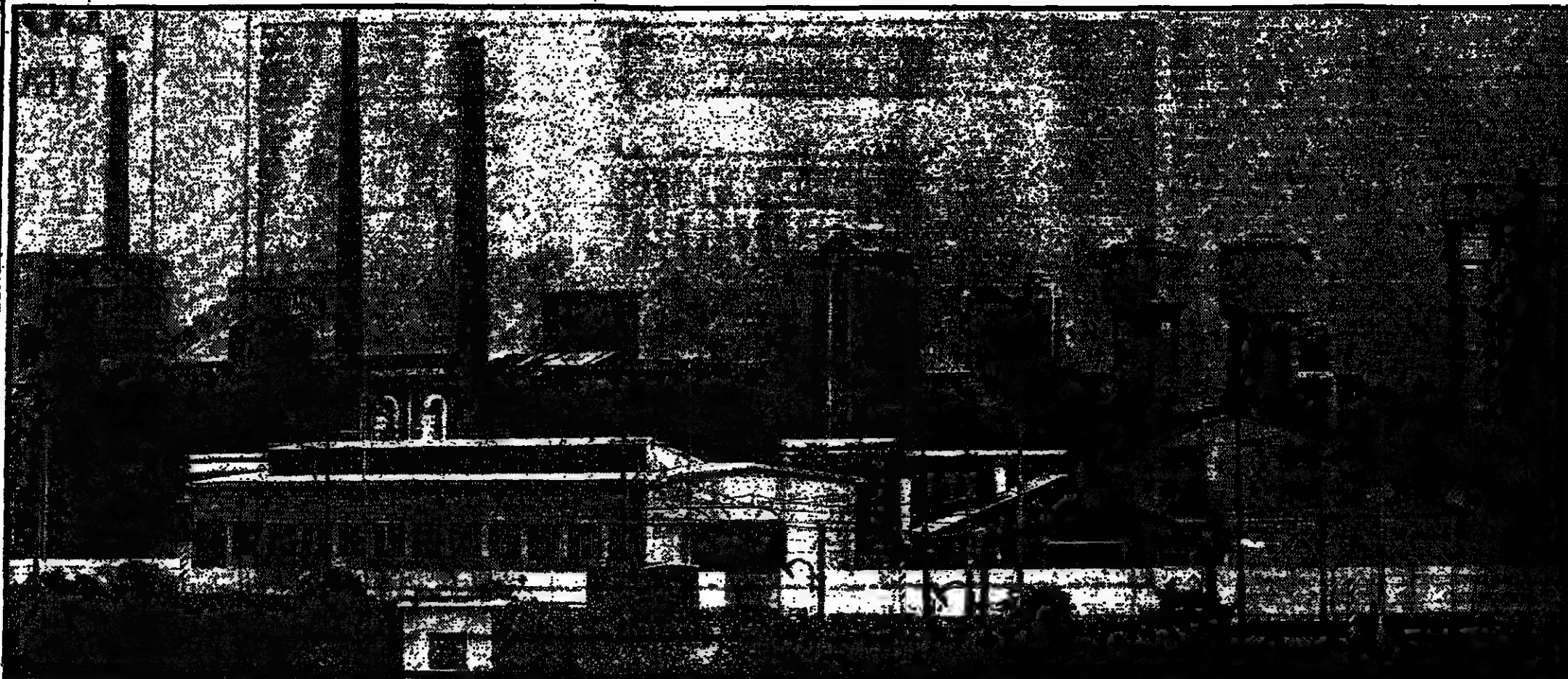
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On this and the next two pages a survey of industry shows that long-term expansion plans have not always been justified. It is introduced by John Earle



## Depression is domestic

Italian industry is looking to the future in a new mood of anxiety, following reports in many sectors of a fall in domestic demand. The deterioration was already noted early this year in Piedmont, often the first region to feel a change in the climate. In the country as a whole, however, output continued to expand satisfactorily—surprisingly so—till the spring, running at about 10 per cent above 12 months earlier.

Then in April the pace suddenly faltered. Estimates differ on exact production statistics from April onwards, but there is no doubt that increasing

difficulties are being felt in sectors such as housing and construction, steel, textiles and clothing, certain foodstuffs and domestic appliances. An additional reason for a fall in sales of some cosmetics, foodstuffs and beverages has been a government ban on a range of widely used colourants. On the other hand certain manufacturers of machinery and electrical equipment appear to be resisting the trend with a continuing high level of output.

The fall in domestic demand is likely to bring increased competition by Italian manufacturers on world markets. Many Italian exporters of goods, knowledge and services have made outstanding reputa-

tions for themselves since the 1950s for their aggressiveness, flexibility and resilience. It is not only for their modulated finances, that, schooled by experience at home, they may be more adept at negotiating kick-backs and payouts and cutting corners than more staid competitors from other industrialized countries. They also show a willingness to adapt themselves to the wishes of the customer, even if it means accepting an uncomfortably low profit. Fiat's construction of the Soviet Union's first big car plant at Togliattigrad, for example, is reported not to have been so financially rewarding for the Turin firm as hoped.

Many Italian firms enjoy a higher reputation abroad

than at home where—with some prominent exceptions—the public may know them for their modulated finances, obscure accounting practices, controversial management methods, or insufficient research. Most big names have important deals under way in the Third World, while in many cases medium-sized firms have banded together in a consortium, particularly in construction and public works. The leftwing Lega delle Cooperative, or cooperative movement, is also a force to be reckoned with in export trade and in certain African development projects. The prospects are that the Italians will be, if anything, more formidable competitors in future.

To take some recent

examples, the state-owned Istroper la Ricostruzione Industriale group is in the process of implementing a \$2,000m package for a port, steel mill and township at Bandar Abbas in Iran. An IRI mission has visited Venezuela to sound out prospects for ventures in that country. In Venezuela, too, Fiat is negotiating to provide a car plant, in addition to existing South American factories in Argentina and Brazil among its network of plants in the world.

Montedison, for all its management and production difficulties in Italy, has not slackened in its activities abroad, and recently announced an agreement to supply an eleven chemical plants to the Soviet Union.

The state energy corporation ENI sent a delegation in June under Signor Pietro Sette, its chairman, to China to discuss future collaboration, contemporaneously with a visit to Peking by Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the foreign minister. ENI has not so far concluded protracted negotiations with Iran, give the Iranians a stake in its refining and distribution activities in the rest of Europe and Africa, in change for supplies of oil and guaranteed Iranian purchases of Italian goods. If the negotiations succeed, they will be a milestone in an all-producing country's share in downstream operations on world markets.

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## Steel Industry seeks to avoid drastic revisions

by Mary Venturini

Optimistic planning at the beginning of the decade has left Italy's steel industry coping with excess productive capacity, sluggish internal demand, and an overvalued workforce, problems which look as though they will plague steel manufacturers well into the 1980s.

An increase in imports over the past two years has also added to the industry's difficulties, although a rapid switch to new export markets in 1975 managed to take up some of the slack.

In 1976 internal demand was running at 21 million tonnes and production at 23,400,000 tonnes, well below the industry's total capacity of 30 million tonnes. This was better than the slump of 1975 when demand fell to 17 million tonnes with production at 21 million.

But exports, totalling about eight million tonnes last year, were as much the same level as in 1975, while imports of 6,400,000 tonnes were 50 per cent up. If there is no improvement in domestic demand soon then only the scrapping of development plans, drastic cuts in the labour force and greater sales overseas will save the industry from further heavy losses.

A greater emphasis on special steels might make Italy less vulnerable. But so far the state-owned sector of the industry, which accounts for 58 per cent of total steel production, seems more inclined to try to weather the storm than embark on drastic revisions.

Finisider, the IRI (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale) holding company for such subsidiaries as Italsider, Terni, Desmarco, clocked up losses of about 200,000m lire in 1976 and hardly seems likely to fare better this year.

It suffers from under-capitalization, a very large labour force, and the high cost of financing its short and long-term debts. It is also the victim of political planning.

Finisider is opposing increasing resistance to the Government's project for it to start work on the new Gioia Tauro steel mill in Calabria by the end of this year. Fortunately there are signs that members of the Government also realize the futility of lumbering it with a plant that it does not want, and which according to present calculations will only add to its existing losses.

In the initial phase of development Gioia Tauro will have a capacity of 1,300,000 tonnes a year, it



A jump in imports has added to the steel industry's difficulties.

will employ 7,000 and it will cost Finisider 1,500,000m lire at 1975 prices.

Nor does the industry have much room for manoeuvre elsewhere. Italsider is already in trouble at Taranto in the wake of its most recent expansion. With a total capacity of 10,500,000 tonnes a year, a third of the Italian total, production is now running at about seven million tonnes. In addition Italsider is having enough difficulty with those laid off by the contractors now finishing construction on the site to be able to entertain the idea of off-loading any of its own workforce at the moment.

At its other big centre, Genoa, Italsider, which made losses of 130,000m lire in 1976, is already committed to the modernization of its Cornigliano mill.

The replacement of the old Martin furnaces with the

new OBM system will cost the company about 200,000m lire and will push production up to 2,400,000 tonnes a year.

The collapse of the deficit-ridden Egam, the state mining and minerals group, will also have severe repercussions for the industry. The 20 ex-Egam steel companies

for which IRI has now been made responsible have combined losses of 172,000m lire. Only 11 of the 20 are thought to be viable. Private industry is already eyeing the best of the pickings and Fiat in particular is hoping that it may be able to add the Egam special steels to its own Teksid empire.

## Chemicals

## Easy money led to scramble

At the end of the 1960s it looked as though the Italian chemical industry would be one of the leading growth areas of the next decade. Between 1971 and 1976 about 4,500,000m lire were poured into new investment schemes, more than into any other single sector of manufacturing industry.

Another 5,000,000m is earmarked for new development but it is doubtful whether much of this will be spent in the near future, because of the crisis within the industry itself and a deliberate slowdown in government funding. The main source of the industry's finance.

According to a recent survey by the Bank of Italy it is estimated that the chemical industry received the lion's share of government-backed medium and long-term loans paid to industry in the past five years.

The credits were designed to encourage development in the backward south as well as the modernization of obsolete plant in the north. It is now generally recognized, however, that this easy money policy had a detrimental effect not only on the public purse but also on the industry itself.

It led to a scramble among the major companies, Montedison, ANIC (the chemical subsidiary of the state hydrocarbons concern, ENI), Società Italiana Resine (SIR) and Liquegas, for the available finance. Planned production, market forecasting and research were largely disregarded in the battle to stop competitors getting their hands on the money first.

As a result certain sectors of the industry, such as petrochemicals and fibres are now suffering from over-development and excess capacity while other more lucrative fields, particularly in the secondary and fine chemicals, have been ignored.

In addition managers have often concentrated more on cultivating good political connections in

Rome rather than efficient administration. Lack of planning in the domestic front has led to a bad showing in export markets and it is likely that the industry will have a sound financial base.

The industry has been suffering from the general economic slump, the soaring costs of raw materials at labour, and strict government controls on pricing system, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals and a chronic balance of trade deficit which registered a loss of 780,000m lire in 1976 four times that of the previous year.

The new Milan and-polition less among the strictest in Europe have also meant heavy expenditure for the industry, and in addition there is now strong local opposition to many new chemical developments.

Some form of state aid is clearly necessary, not to far the efforts of Montedison and the state-controlled ANIC to cooperate in production of styrene in Sicily and fibres in Sardinia have met with disaster. Montedison is not trying again this time with its old arch rival SIR, Italy's largest privately-owned chemical company.

The recent agreement between the two to control future development and investment policy has however, been greeted with criticism in leaving clear, it is seen mainly as a manoeuvre to bolster the interests of private capital against those of a state holding in Montedison-SIR being the industry's major private shareholder.

Just as a time when it looked as though Montedison might finally be under state control.

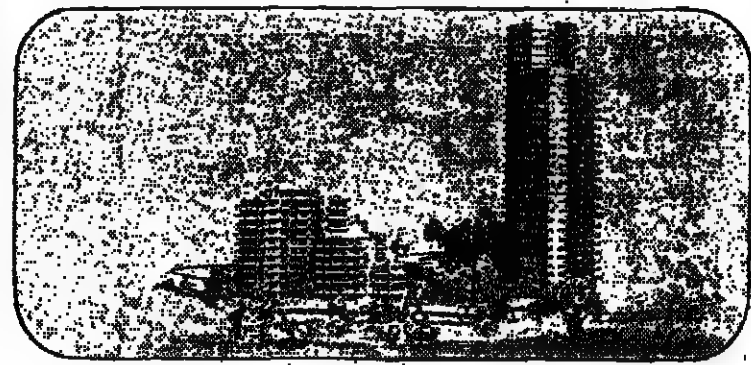
However, as companies have slowly realized, little real progress will be made if ANIC and Liquegas are also persuaded to take part in consolidation of the industry's future.

M.V.

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## Cars

## Importers win bigger share of market

by Chris Matthews

car priced at a punitive 50 lire (33p) a litre and a large economy car to cost a hefty 500,000 lire. The Italian car industry, however, is not as gloomy as it was a year ago.

There were nearly 150,000 new registrations in 1977, an increase of 10 per cent over the dismal figure of 99,191 registered in May 1976, but figures for the first five months of 1977 are not as bright as those for the same period in 1976, a measure of the 0.56 per cent fall.

Fiat confirms that after a slow start to the year, business picked up a little in the spring, though not nearly as much as the company would have hoped.

Italy's production for this year is expected to be about 1,500,000, roughly on a par with last year's 1,471,308, but still well below the golden days before the 1973 rise in the price of oil. Italy turned out 1,800,000 cars last year, and Fiat made 1,250,000 of these.

"I blame it all on that accursed Rolls-Royce", an industrialist told reporters in Rome recently after having his scholarship set kidnapped. Times make it dangerous for people to flaunt their money. But though fears of kidnapping may be one element in determining the choice of car for a tiny minority, the decisive factor for most is engine size.

The more affluent sector, where the largest profits are made, has been hardest hit by one of the world's highest prices for petrol. While total production at Fiat is similar to last year's, the composition of that total has changed substantially in favour of cars at the lower end of the scale. A firm like Alfa Romeo, which produces fine-crafted, but petrol-hungry, high performance vehicles, is in considerable difficulty with troubles compounded by labour disputes at its Alfa Romeo plant.

The trend towards smaller, cheaper cars has been a boon to importers, especially France's Renault which has seen its annual sales double from 50,000 to 100,000 in the past five years. Ford's Fiesta is also selling well at some 6,000 a month and sales of foreign cars were at one stage almost 40 per cent



Fiat's Mirafiori car plant in Turin. Fiat hopes to regain lost ground in the next couple of years with the introduction of two new cars.

of the total number. It seems that this foreign offensive may have been temporarily halted by the recent introduction of a restricted Fiat 127 in 900 and 1100 versions but, beyond this, Turin has little to offer in answer to the spate of new models coming off French and German assembly lines. A lack of new models from Fiat is the main reason for the company's retreat from a traditional 60 per cent share of the Italian market to its present level of about 50 per cent, but it expects to redress the balance in the next two years by the presentation of two new cars and by offering diesel-engined versions of its mid-upper range 131 and 132 models, thus making them more attractive to the thrifty.

Overall the picture is not bright, but that is not surprising in the present state of the Italian economy. Hopes for the future rest on the introduction of competitive new popular models and the ability to sell existing quality models such as the Lancia Gamma to export markets.

## Energy

## Policies in the melting-pot

The resurgence of Italy's oil scandal has set tongues wagging about how far back the country has to go to find a policy for its energy needs. The oil companies have been lobbying by oil companies have discouraged the politicians from implementing a proper nuclear energy plan. It had been known for years that oil companies made political payoffs in the 1960s and early 1970s, a period when political contributions were not necessarily illegal.

But old flames from the scandal which broke in 1974 have flared up anew following two events: the disclosure by British Petroleum to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission that in 1972-75 about £503,000 was paid to Italian political parties, and the arrest in May and subsequent release on bail of Signor Vincenzo Cazzaniga, former chairman of Eni, charged with misappropriation and falsifying balance sheets.

The whole nuclear versus oil issue did not seem so important in the years of cheap and easy crude imports before the Arab-Israeli war of 1973, when Italy became Europe's biggest oil importer, supplying its refineries as well as its own. But the subsequent quinqupling of crude prices revealed the shortsightedness of policy-makers content to let the country depend on foreign sources for more than 80 per cent of its energy needs.

About 70 per cent of the total is provided by oil, with the rest divided between natural gas, solid fuel, hydroelectric, geothermal and, still to an insignificant degree, nuclear power. Interesting work is underway in the exploitation of geothermal, and solar energy, but its commercial significance is still minimal.

It will be for the courts to decide whether money or favours passed hands improperly to promote consumption of oil at the expense of nuclear power. There is no doubt, however, that the nuclear timetable foreseen in the Industry Ministry's draft national energy plan drawn up in mid-1975 has no chance of being met. In the light of this, Parliament's industry commission has been holding a series of hearings in an attempt to rethink the implications of the energy policy.

The 1975 plan predicts a steady rise in demand for energy varying between 5 and 6.4 per cent a year between now and 1980 according to a lower or higher growth hypothesis, and then between 4.5 and 7.5 per cent a year till 1985. Total energy consumption should increase from 133,500,000 tons of oil equivalent in 1975 to 174,800,000 (low rate) or 185,800,000 (high rate) in 1980 and then 219,800,000 or 262,700,000 respectively in 1985. The nuclear sector's share in national energy requirements should rise spectacularly from less than 1 per cent in 1975 to 13 and 13.5 per cent in 1985. All signs point to this being wishful thinking.

Italy got off to a good start in the 1960s with the construction of three pilot reactors totalling about 600 megawatts, of which one was built with British expert knowledge by the

state hydrocarbons corporation ENI at Latina south of Rome. An 850MW boiling water reactor, provided under United States General Electric licence by the state-owned Finmeccanica group, has been undergoing final testing at Casaccia on the Po. But there the start has come to a stop.

Not long ago, there was talk of 16 new plants being on order by 1980, making 20 altogether during the 1980s. An ambitious building programme was to go ahead so that by 1990 no less than 40 per cent of the power supplied by the national electricity board ENEL, would be nuclear. Now ENEL's sights have been lowered, and it will be lucky if 12, not 20, plants are being built by 1980.

In the oil and gas sectors, ENI is active in exploration programmes in many parts of the world, but has had only limited success at home. Domestic oil production last year was only about one million tons. The Po Valley gasfields, on which its founder the late Signor Enrico Mattei made his reputation, together with their extensions under the northern Adriatic provide the bulk of annual domestic production of about 15,000 cu metres, but have proved reserves for only another 14 to 15 years.

Hopes were raised by a strike at about 5,500 metres depth in 1974 at Malossa, near Milan, of oil and gas-bearing strata estimated to hold 40 million tons of exploitable oil and 50,000 million cu metres of methane. But conditions are difficult—temperatures of about 200 centigrade and a pressure of 1,000 atmospheres—and so far other exploration in the area has been disappointing.

Offshore, attention has turned to the south, where the Luna gasfield off Crotona is estimated to have reserves of 18,000 million cu metres. Operators are reported to be fairly optimistic about prospects in Sicilian waters, particularly towards Tunisia.

There is little sign, however, of Italian waters turning out to be another North Sea. Significant deposits of more than 100 million tons of oil have been discovered by both ENI and the French Company Elf in the Adriatic, but the quality is dense and bituminous, and a study is being undertaken by ENI with a financial grant from the EEC to determine how recovery can be made commercially worth while.

This year ENI expects to obtain about 15 million tons of crude, or a fifth of national requirements, from its share abroad in oilfields in places such as Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Tunisia, Egypt, Norway, Congo and Indonesia. The main sources of foreign gas are Libya, The Netherlands and the Soviet Union. To these will be added Algeria, which will export Saharan methane to Italy either in liquefied form by tanker or, if recently reopened negotiations with Tunisia bear fruit, by pipeline across Tunisia and the Mediterranean to Sicily.

J.E.

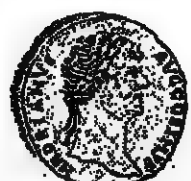
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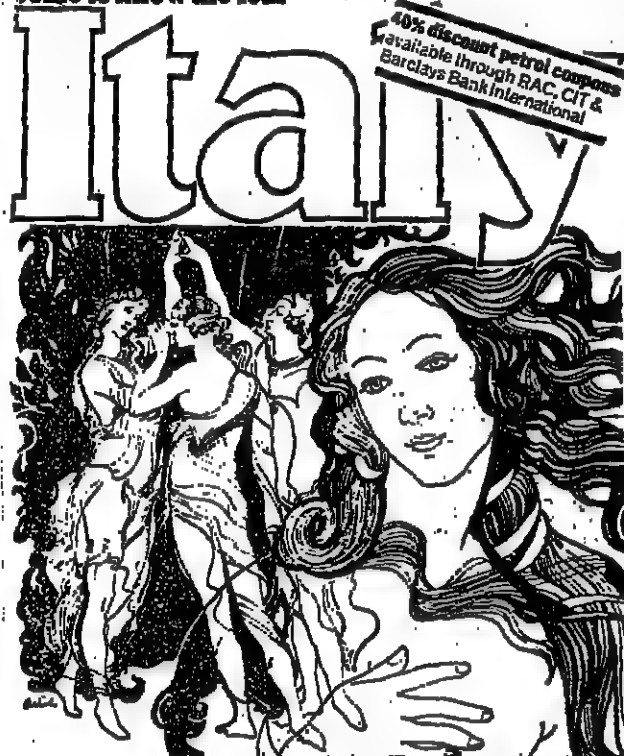


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## Growth rate twice as fast as rest

Computers

by John Wickfield



Mr. Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, went to Italy recently to study Italian public budget control methods. He visited the state-owned consultants who have computerized the Italian Treasury's accounting, Inasist.

The tale of that company is a growth story which underlines the potential of the Italian computer market, in particular in public administration, where Inasist is mainly active. In its eight years of life Inasist's turnover has risen to 5,000 and employees to about 500.

Over the past 12 years the Italian computer market has expanded strongly. Between 1964 and 1974 the number of systems installed rose from 650 to 5,700, nearly twice as fast as the world average growth rate. There, as elsewhere, the emphasis in the past few years has shifted towards small computers, which accounted for 80 per cent of the 900 units installed in 1976.

Italian production of small computers almost doubled last year, while output of computer terminals rose from 18,000 units in 1975 to 32,000 in 1976. The total value of Italian computer production in 1976, including large computers, rose 42 per cent to £220m.

Big multinationals like IBM and Honeywell are present in Italy, where both firms have production plants. IBM employs 9,000 people, both in sales and production, and more than 500 of them have been taken on since the start of last year. Expansion is still going on at its main plant at Vimercate, near Milan, where 2,000 workers produce data processing systems like the system 32 and system 34.

IBM's sales in Italy last year totalled £420m, while IBM exports from its Italian plants to 90 countries rose 44 per cent to £151m. Last year IBM invested £62m in Italy, much of it on a new headquarters outside Milan, and on expansion of its Vimercate plant.

On the Piedmontese foothills of the Alps north-east of Turin is based another leading computer producer, the all-Italian company, Olivetti. This company has so far managed to escape being drawn into the orbit of state-owned industry, despite financial vicissitudes in the past.

Olivetti, known for decades for its typewriters and office equipment, decided in 1959 to branch out into large computers, only to withdraw from the market five years later when it concluded that those systems did not fit in with its other production lines.

The decision to sell its large computer division to General Electric in 1964 is generally thought to be one of the biggest mistakes the company made.

Only one year later, Olivetti launched its Programma 101, which became the world's first desk-top computer. Unfortunately it was not backed up by other machines and was less of a success than it might have been. Since then Olivetti has come forward with a range launched in 1974, the A5, A6 and A7 systems, and the TC 800, for which it has received about 60,000 orders so far. As a result Olivetti ranks as Europe's largest producer of small data processing systems, and computer sales account for more than 40 per cent of the group's £300m turnover.

As its headquarters in Ivrea, Olivetti also has Europe's largest computer research centre, with 2,000

employees. But the cost of investment in its new computer lines has been a heavy drain on company finances, and 1974 was the last year for which the company paid a dividend. Spending on research and development has quadrupled since 1973 to a forecast £40m this year.

But interest payments on group debt last year cost Olivetti 9.5 per cent of turnover. Like many Italian companies Olivetti would gladly raise its capital to ease the burden of heavy debt, if only the current disastrous bourse climate did not make such a project unattractive.

A 31.5 per cent increase in sales last year allowed the company to turn a 1975 loss of £5.6m into a profit of £780,000. The firm is cautious about predictions for 1977 in spite of a 21 per cent increase in first quarter orders, but a new portable calculator, just announced, the B6040, exemplifies the innovative strength behind Olivetti.

Many big Italian banks use Olivetti equipment for their data processing, and the company recently announced a large order from the West German Sparkassen (savings banks) system. Imperial Bank of Canada recently put in a big order for TC800s and that line is also selling well in the United States, Japan, Australia and Finland. Olivetti recently signed a technological cooperation agreement for computers with East Germany. In Italy it has just launched the country's first electronic telex exchange, using its CT282 system.

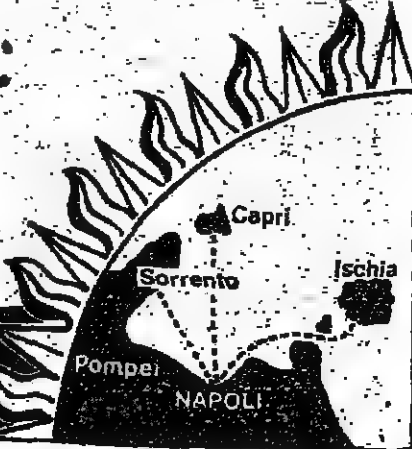
In Italy almost the whole telecommunications sector is under state control. Leading Italian telecommunications is the holding company, STET, a subsidiary of the state IRI group. Both STET funds in 1977.

## Letter from an Englishman living in Naples.

Naples  
20th. June 1977

Dear Philip,  
wonderful to hear of your arrival next Friday.  
It will give me great pleasure to show you around my adopted city in the hope that like me, you will discover for yourself the unique charm and incredible atmosphere of what for me still remains the most exciting and beautiful city of Europe, not to mention the islands and surrounding countryside.  
They used to say "see Naples and die".  
I would prefer to say "see Naples and live!"  
I am sure you are going to agree with me.  
Yours ever,

Olivier



## Shipyards

## Need for sizable new orders

by Adrian Henderson

Italian shipyards, which have been fairly active during the past three or four years of crisis for many world shipbuilders, need sizable orders in coming months to assure what may be considered a politically acceptable level of vessel construction after 1978.

The Financieri and Italian shipowner groups account for almost all of Italy's shipbuilding. Aside from risks domestic and foreign orders for warships, the high-cost yards depend wholly on Parliament to finance new vessels for the Finmare state shipping group.

Comprising the Lloyd Triestino, Adriatica, Tirrenia and Italian lines, Finmare has nearly completed shifting out of oceanic passenger liners. Italian passenger liners have been an important element in the annual losses of \$250m and more of the Finmare group. They were kept in operation several years after Britain, France and the United States abandoned such services.

The four state shipping lines still have to order about half of some 60 new and mostly high technology vessels for cargo carriage. About 1,100,000 line of new ships is called for by legislation and appropriations decided by Parliament in 1974.

Parliamentary concentration of building subsidies and loans, and even financing of maritime operations, in the Finmare group gives another push to private shipowners.

Signor Ugo La Malfa, an influential Republican leader and former Treasury Minister, suggested in 1974 that the Italian taxpayer would benefit from a sinking of all Finmare vessels.

But a Parliament mindful, and also fearful, of the political and social effect of tens of thousands of unemployed shipyard workers and seamen voted to subsidize a Finmare expansion into the cargo sector.

Orders from the Finmare group for more than 30 new vessels have reached Italian yards. A definitive figure cannot be given because the Financieri-Italian shipowner groups often start construction *in proprio*—that is, on their own accounts and without a firm order.

Orders are being discussed with Libya and other African and Middle Eastern countries. The Libyan Government's stake in Fiat, for example, could eventually result in Ligurian shipyards getting orders for the smaller class of warships, suitable for Mediterranean use.

The Italian merchant marine has been expanding at a higher rate than in other countries. It increased from 10,100,000 gross tons in 1975 to more than 11 million tons at the end of 1976. Based on work in progress and expected orders, the merchant fleet will expand from 15,600,000 deadweight tons in 1975 to about 19 million tons before the end of this year.

Italian shipyards had an order book of about two million gross tons last spring according to Financieri. Two thirds are under construction and one third due to start. Only about 100,000 tons had been announced earlier this year as coming from foreign buyers. This contrasts with the boom year of 1973 when Italian yards reported orders for four million deadweight tons.

Petroleum tankers account for one third of the orders booked by Italian yards, and bulk oil carriers one fifth. The flexibility of Italian yards is indicated also by other orders for straight bulk carriers, general cargo and specialised vessels. The last include roll-on, roll-off vessels with and without cellular container capacity, in demand for Mediterranean and Middle East service.





## Adaptable fashion mirrors unrest in volatile society

Silvana  
Bernasconi

Fashion is something you could speak of with enthusiasm but without going to extremes, and above all without waxing poetic or over-enthusiastic. Chanel said—important rule if you are going to cum up the Italian fashion world, at the same time bearing in mind the temperament and exuberance of the people themselves, which range from the darkest pessimism to the most overwrought optimism. The ups and downs of the Italian situation and the society is developing, but unrest of every kind and violent violence have produced a type of fashion that adjusts rapidly to situations. Whereas yesterday we talked of folk and folk style, today we turn the classic look, as a form of investment. "Quality" is the order of the day in every sense, from fabrics to form, in the more realistic way of dress.

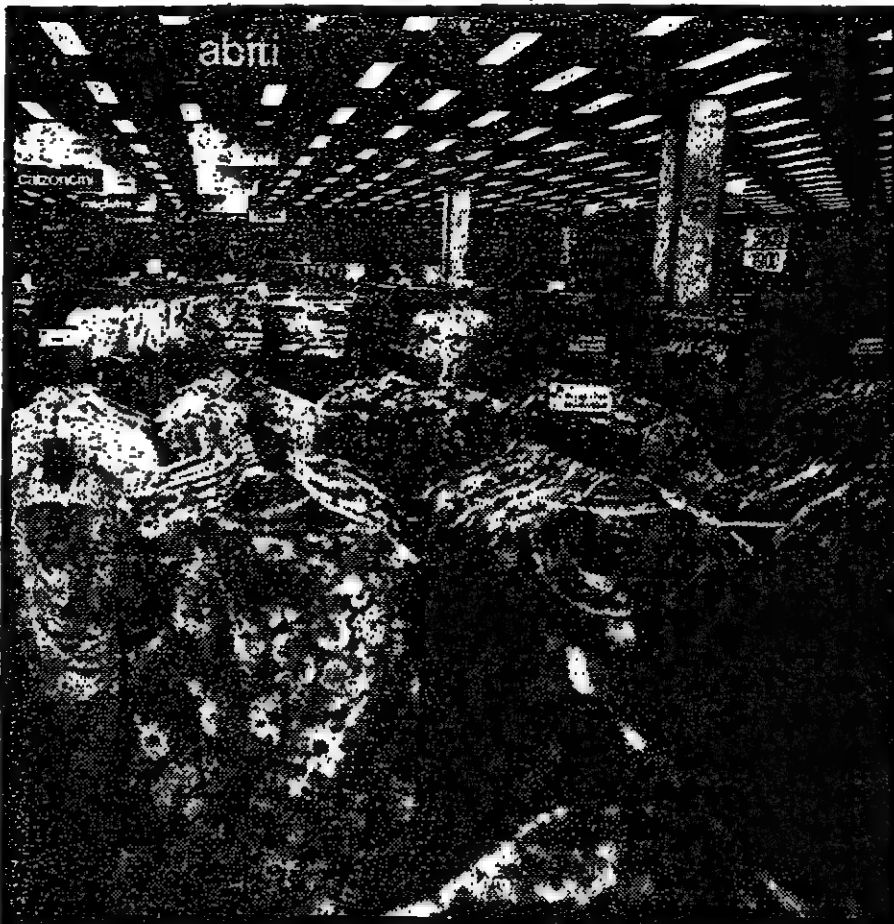
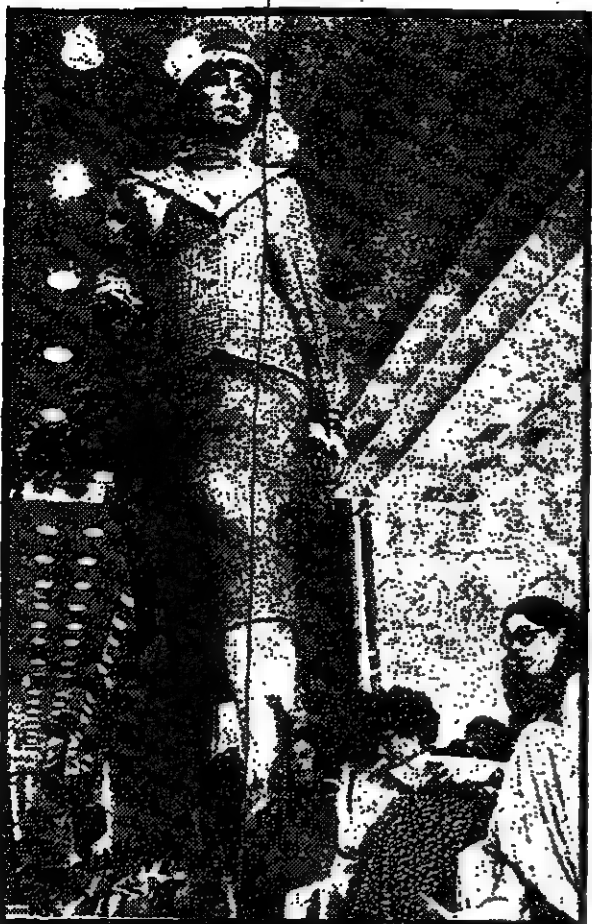
Young people have less influence on fashion since the 60s, having abandoned the wearing of short-skirted, low-cut, and loose pink, the symbolic colour of femininity, like the 60s. Italians hang up in their windows when a baby is born. Divided into two camps by social problems, but all wearing tennis shoes, young people seem to have moved away from questions of fashion, although firms such as Fiorucci, the 18-year-olds' paradise, are still packed to capacity.

But what do they sell? "Basic" style, Elio Fiorucci says, "which we wrongly label 'English' in order to emphasize the classic cut, the scorn for frivolity, and a sporty style that is timeless and is gaining ground by leaps and bounds."

Despite the crisis—a phrase on everyone's lips—and a certain despicability of authoritarianism, which is only striving after common sense, Italian fashion creativity is in full ferment, from haute couture to the mass production industry. The industry is trying to streamline its elephantine proportions and get abreast of the times, with the help and fresh energy of stylism.

The large shows, those of a national scale, are restricted to four cities: Rome, for haute couture, Florence for ready-to-wear fashion, boutiques, and knitwear; Milan for prêt-à-porter; and Como, for fabrics by the very best of the textile manufacturers, under the aegis of Ideo-omo. The mass clothing industry, on the other hand, adds its own life, and faces its own difficulties—which lay in the high cost of raw materials, the increased price of fabrics, and competition in foreign markets—stuck in a way, within the limits of its own faces, spread out over the whole length of the peninsula.

Autumn, which was ended until yesterday as a miracle of survival, is relaunched in great force a few seasons ago



Italian haute couture is seen at its best at Rome houses like Valentino. By contrast Milan supermarkets sell ready-to-wear styles.

also in the United States. The news is being confirmed from many quarters. Morel Gressu, a well-known prêt-à-porter stylist who will make her debut in Rome, was sponsored by five Italian textile manufacturers for a collection of their fabrics, which will then be advertised and sold by two large American stores.

Even a famous name like Gucci is returning to the haute couture shows to present his sports accessories. The house of Valentino will hold two haute couture shows in September in New York, to mark the grand relaunch of this Italian luxury firm—by a number of American stores, naturally.

Italian haute couture survives thanks to the intelligent network of international licences which mostly bear the name of Valentino, Mila Schön, Lanvin, Galizia, Capucci. The licences for ready-to-wear fashion, boutiques, and knitwear; Milan for prêt-à-porter; and Como, for fabrics by the very best of the textile manufacturers, under the aegis of Ideo-omo. The mass clothing industry, on the other hand, adds its own life, and faces its own difficulties—which lay in the high cost of raw materials, the increased price of fabrics, and competition in foreign markets—stuck in a way, within the limits of its own faces, spread out over the whole length of the peninsula.

Autumn, which was ended until yesterday as a miracle of survival, is relaunched in great force a few seasons ago

in Milan. It includes the creations of the most famous stylists, who are sought after on the market like football players. They are a group of talented young people, who have set Italian ready-made fashion alight with their insolent vivacity, audacity, and boundless vitality.

The foremost of these stylists are Gianni Versace, Giorgio Armani, Walter Albini, Silvano Malta, Gianfranco Ferré and, the youngest, Enrico Coveri. Together with Caumont, Krizia, Missoni, Basile, Laura Biagiotti, and others they hold the reins of the market in their hands, and justify, with their creative spirit, the Italian boom in knitwear, clothes, leather, furs and accessories. These names have launched an "Italian line" in the world, synonymous with creativity and joie de vivre. With its optimism, it is overcoming the difficulties of the times, and justifies the hopes for the future. Let us hear what some of them, and some of the information centres, have to say:

Valentino: "We have so much work in haute couture that we are even having to turn away orders."

Gianni Versace: "Today is the most splendid time ever in the history of Italian fashion."

market has held up well, despite the price increases, because of the quality of the models."

Giampaolo Portezza, of Faroni, and vice-chairman of Ideo-omo: "In the silk sector we have had no recession. The year 1976 shows a profit of 230,000 lire."

Armando Branchini, president of the Italian Association for the Clothing Industry: "We shall win through by keeping up our exports."

Signora Cardillo of the International Wool Secretariat: "Cotton has started off a very important casual fashion, and knitted co-ords have also been successful."

The Commissione Tutela Lino carries out similar promotional work for linen, which has become fashionable again in Italy, thanks to a wave of romanticism inspired by early twentieth-century lines.

The great success of Italian knitwear is emphasized by Dr. Nembi, vice-president of the Associazione Maglia e Calze: "The leading names in knitwear, such as Missoni, Krizia, Callaghan, the Basile and, in prêt-à-porter, Valentino, have opened up a path of gold for Italian fashion in this sphere, which in 1976 showed a profit of a million million lire, in racing."

## Far from the madding tourist routes

by John F. Crossland

Culture and Italy need not be synonymous with a grand tour. Ten kilometres off the Autostrada del Sole in the lush hills overlooking the sea, the Gargozza circuit, Gargozza is an imaginative experiment in creating an art centre from a dying hill village, with the need to accommodate the growing number of visitors who use the centre's facilities or simply take advantage of the restorative qualities of the superb surrounding countryside.

A self-contained community following various branches of the arts, either in practice or by appreciation, was the ideal of Count Guicciardini and his business partner, Count Mancini, and now, four years later, they are slowly realizing their aim. Tourists can find the village as a picturesque base for visiting Florence, Siena and Arezzo, but an increasing number of artists, writers and musicians are spending much of the summer there, finding peace and beauty conducive to work and the communal atmosphere a help in establishing contacts with other artists.

Gargozza's postal address is prefixed by Castello and the nineteenth-century keep dominates the village and the road to Siena from its 546-metre spur. Cars have to be left outside the village and the cobbled path which leads to the medieval gate, the only entrance, is the one taken by Dante when he came to spend the early days of his exile there.

The village is a scheduled national monument and the Ministry of Fine Arts contributes about a third towards the cost of restoration.

The heart of the village is the arts centre, built like the rest of Gargozza in the traditional Tuscan style of terracotta and stone, with a natural wood beam. It includes gallery space and a large concert hall opening on to a terrace where audiences can listen to music in the pine-scented evening air.

The music festivals are arranged, as are all arts programmes at Gargozza, by the Association of Friends of Gargozza under its president, Count Guicciardini. His family has owned the village for nearly 300 years. This year economic pressures have led to the association asking the regional government of Tuscany for a grant towards the cultural programme of San lire.

Gargozza has close links with the Accademia Cignani of Siena, whose students give recitals during the summer. This summer their programme has been cut to two concerts because of the need for economies, but the need for Gargozza will not suffer, since a course in Renaissance and baroque extra-

music has been organized for the early autumn. Any plan to extend the year at Gargozza is welcomed by the amici.

The informal classes in early instruments may well be held in the open air. Minimum costs for the course, which lasts from September 1 to 12, amount to 115,000 lire. They include a 40,000 lire tuition fee for one instrument and an extra 20,000 lire if instruction in a second instrument is required.

Art exhibitions tend to be arranged informally, artists showing work done during their stay or, relying on the bond created with the centre, dropping in with a portfolio of paintings or lithographs possibly inspired by a stay there. The American abstract painter Miss Diana Constance, who works in London, is planning a show of pictures for Gargozza. Among Guicciardini's projects for next year is a two-month course in art history held in conjunction with a Canadian university.

The natural way of life at Gargozza is best captured on a warm night after a concert, cooking on one of the huge open hearths in a rustic house, frying spicy local sausages, and eating over glowing pine-wood charcoal. Shopping is done in Monticchiello, 5 km down the winding hill road.

Conservation at Gargozza includes the wild hour, which have the run of a fenced-off section of the 800 hectares of estate woodland. The herd was started with a handful of young animals brought in from a mountain game reserve. It established itself successfully and is the pride of the guardian, the estate's gamekeeper, a fact demonstrated if you accompany him to the dawn grain distribution.

He climbs a stile, a few yards down a woodland path. It is silent and deserted. A scattering of grain... then the Italian equivalent of "come and get it" and one hears a chorus of grunts and squeals coming from the undergrowth. Then the herd bursts into view, butting each other out of the way to be first. The patriarch, a large black boar, saliva dripping from its tusks, stands warily in the background. In a few minutes they have melted back into the bushes.

This autumn, local school children will make their own contribution to preserving Gargozza's charms by planting pines and cypresses on the hillsides which were swept by fire four years ago.

Basic facts on Gargozza: Accommodation—65 beds in 14 villas. Cost—between 2,000 and 7,000 lire a day, depending on size of villa. (There are special group rates between 5,000 and 8,000 lire.) All villas are fully furnished and equipped with showers and modern kitchen ranges. Electricity and hot water are included in the rent, but gas for cooking and laundry and firewood are extra.

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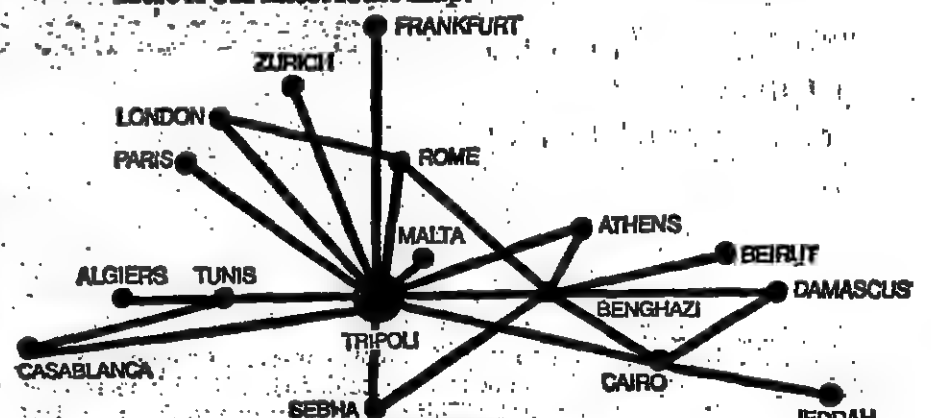
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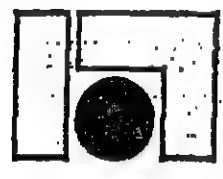
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**Fiat Holding is a vital force in the Italian economy.**  
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## The Fiat Holding Company

The new Fiat is an industrial holding company made up of eleven operating groups.

This organizational structure was created to meet the Group's continuing need to diversify both its products and production strategy.

The new company demands much greater management flexibility, independence of action and decentralization of decision-making.

**Automobiles** Cars remain the most important group of the Fiat Holding. In 1975, 1,350,000 vehicles were sold, 55% of which in the 150 world markets where Fiat operates. This was achieved due to the specialization and adaptability of the many models to diverse world market needs and the coordination of the division's manufacturers: FIAT, AUTOBIANCHI, LANCIA, ABARTH and FERRARI.

Fiat cars are assembled or manufactured under licence in 50 plants in 25 countries, employing 148,000 people.

Fiat has also built vast automobile production complexes, some through different joint ventures, in Brazil (Fiat Automoveis), Argentina (Fiat Concord), Spain (Seat), Yugoslavia (Zavodi Crvena Zastava), Turkey (Tofas), and other ventures in Poland (FSO and FSM) and in the USSR (VAZ at Togliattigrad).

**Commercial Vehicles** As a result of the agreement between Fiat and Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz, a new company was created - Industrial Vehicles Corporation, IVECO.

Fiat's participation being 80%, IVECO now coordinates all activities formerly carried out in Italy for Fiat Veicoli Industriali, by OM, by Lancia Veicoli Speciali, by Unic in France, and by Magirus Deutz in Germany. In 1976 IVECO (14 production and assembly plants and 50,000 employees), manufactured 103,000 commercial vehicles with a range of 200 models for all types of transportation.

**Agricultural Tractors** Fiat Tractors and their various licensees, with two plants in Italy, one plant in Turkey, one in Roumania, one in Zaire and one in Argentina, and employing a total of 8,000 persons, produced 80,000 tractors in 1976.

The production range includes 50 models with 2- or 4-wheel drive or crawlers, and with a power output varying from 28 to 160 hp. Fiat Tractors has so far manufactured over one million tractors, and ranks first in the production of crawler tractors for agricultural use.

**Iron and Steel** The iron and steel group (TEKSID) is split into six divisions (steel, foundry, transformation, forging, spare parts and engineering), and ranks first in Italian production of special steel. TEKSID will have a production of one million tons of special steels, does not only mean steel, it has a complex of foundries which are the largest in Europe, and which use the most advanced product and transformation processes both for cold extrusion and

has 17 plants with a combined workforce of 30,000 people. Investments costing about U.S. \$ 300 million planned for 1982.

**Construction Machinery** Fiat-Allis is the first joint venture which Fiat (holding 77%) has in the international earth-moving industry. It combines the production and commercial activities of earth-moving equipment of 47 models from seven different plants (three in Italy, two in the USA, one in Brazil and one in the UK). In 1976, Fiat-Allis, with 11,500 employees, produced 9,500 machines.

**Energy** Energy and its development and energy exploitation are among the vital activities of Fiat Holding, with production and development of the most advanced thermo-nuclear plants.

The energy group comes under Fiat Aviazione S.p.A. and Termomeccanica nucleare Turbogas division.

There are five plants with 4,500 employees producing gas turbines, diesel engines for marine and railway use, power stations and nuclear components.

**Rolling Stock and Rail Transportation Systems** For many years now Fiat Ferroviaria Savigliano has produced highly technological railway equipment. It was here that the first variable inclination train the "Pendolino" (already running), and the standard European railway gauge originated.

Fiat Ferroviaria Savigliano also manages Fiat's joint participation with EFIM in the O.Me.Ca. Company of Reggio Calabria and the Ferrosud Company of Matera.

In Argentina they operate through the railway division of Fiat Concord, with a plant at Cordoba.

There are 4,100 employees in the whole group.

**Components** The component group of Fiat Holding concentrates its activities in the field of industrial and vehicles components.

There are 30,000 employees, 46 plants and 40 laboratories operating in the various production fields: light alloy wheels, shock absorbers, steering wheels, electrical materials and systems for vehicles, paints, lubricants, carburetors, parts for marine diesel engines, compensators, compressors for refrigerators, calculators and software for automated installations, all products characterised by a high-level of quality and dependability.

### Machine Tools and Production Systems

COMAU Industriali, with its 11 plants and 5,800 employees, regroups a number of companies which previously operated separately in the special machine tool sector under well-known market names: MST, Morando, Colubra Lamsat, IMP, and also Berto Lamet, Impres, UTS.

These companies have equipped plants world-wide both on Fiat's account (VAZ of Togliattigrad, FSO and FSM in Poland, ZCZ in Yugoslavia, SEAT in Spain, TOFAS in Turkey, Automoveis and FMB in Brazil, the Mirafiori and Rivalta plants in Torino and SOFIM in Foggia), and for all the other major automotive industries in Europe.

An agreement to supply machine tools to the new factory for earthmoving equipment at Ceboksary in Russia was recently concluded.

### Civil Engineering and Land Planning

The study and execution of large industrial and civil engineering, land and urban planning services are handled by the Fiat Holding through their subsidiary IMPRESIT, which operates throughout the world with many affiliated companies. Over 150 construction sites and 50,000 employees underline Fiat's present involvement in this sector.

Fiat Engineering Company studies the planning of industrial plants and large service units, and the industrial building (heavy prefabricated units) is carried out by the PREFIM Company.

Real estate promotion is developed in Italy by IMPREINVEST, and abroad by USIF.

### Tourism and Transportation

Ventana has incorporated all the Group's companies operating in tourism, with a wide range of services from the sale of tickets to organized trips and holidays. The sales network is based on 25 agencies in Italy and five representative offices abroad dealing with over 300 travel agents throughout the world.

With SITA and its 11 controlled companies, Fiat operates in the field of transportation, and through FITUR participates in the Terme Vescine, the Alsa Albergo Sardi, the Valtur and the Alpila Companies.

This group employs 4,000 people.

**FIAT**

HEAD OFFICE IN NAPLES  
 BRANCHES—REPRESENTATIVE  
 CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT











# Holes

Museum of transport

Slowing of US growth rate predicted, page 20

## Whitehall accepts demise of attempts to merge turbine groups

National Boiler Company, which is to be formed by merging the boiler interests of Clarke Chapman and Babcock & Wilcox, has been told by the Government that it must carry out a 40 per cent share with 30 per cent each for the National Enterprise Board and the Central Electricity Generating Board. Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has now accepted the National Board's recommendation that the merger will fail.

Mr Mike Thomas, MP for Newcastle East, was again urging the Prime Minister in the Commons yesterday to speed the ordering of Drax B. He has sponsored an "early day" motion supported by 100 MPs saying that in view of the impossibility of putting together a national turbine generator company and the imminent redundancies at Babcock & Wilcox, the Government should invite the Central Electricity Generating Board to place orders with the National Boiler Company and C. A. Parsons, saving jobs in Tyne and Scotland.

Detailed negotiations are due to begin on August 1 on the redundancy programme involving 1,600 workers at C. A. Parsons, and the first man will be laid off at the end of the month.

A statement on Drax B must therefore be made before Parliament recesses for the summer.

However, if the Government invites the CEB to place an order with Parsons, CEC is expected to put in a tender. If it were lower than the Parsons tender, there could be embarrassment.

Yesterday, Reynolds-Parsons shares rose 2p to 170p, while Clarke Chapman was down 2p at 75p.

## Mr Varley to make Commons statement on loans for British Leyland

### NEB faces prospect of funding new Mini

By Maurice Corina  
Industrial Editor  
It is possible that the National Enterprise Board will be made responsible for funding the next stage of British Leyland's external financing, and will carry direct responsibility for handing over the board's own money on the basis of performance targets.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, is to make a statement to the Commons before the Summer Recess on whether the Department of Industry, with Treasury consent, will be providing a loan under section 8 of the Industry Act, 1975, under a section 3 directive during the current financial year.

On present evidence, it appears that the Government may be preparing to finance the Leyland's £250m cash requirement under the NEB, which has limited resources, following a recent Public Accounts Committee investigation into the wisdom of using voted parliamentary funds alongside NEB resources.

It is known that Lord Ryder, retiring chairman of the NEB, met both Mr Varley and the Prime Minister on May 25 against the background of Leyland's problems. Lord Ryder explained his wish to resign but was persuaded to stay on until August 1.

The Government made it very clear the next day that the NEB's relations with Leyland would take a form based on linking funding more closely to performance.

British Leyland needs more than £100m from public sources this summer, and some further substantial assistance later in the year.

The big question is whether this will come from the Department of Industry's restricted section 3 funds, and whether the Commons would approve the sums involved, anyway, without satisfactory explanations on the highly confidential matter of Leyland's Mini programme.

One clue to the problem is the sum of money presently voted by Parliament for section 8 aid to industry. The department has just obtained approval for another £250m of section 8 money to add to £80m still left in the Industry Act kitty.

However, nearly £250m is already earmarked for sectoral industry aid schemes, the selective investment programme, and some reserve provisions to deal with special corporate situations which may arise.

Unless the Government is to go back rapidly for another increase of Limit Order on financial assistance for industry, it is a reasonable deduction that the Government will have a problem.

Many Whitehall people are unhappy with dual financing, through a mixture of section 8 loans under directive (and open to normal parliamentary questioning) and NEB funds.

Every time the department provides Industry Act loans, it fuels criticism that the NEB cannot be held to account fully for its advice and decisions.

Chrysler is already a call on department funds to a sum of almost £163m, but this was never a NEB rescue and there has been no confusion in Chrysler's case in the procedures for monitoring state aid.

The NEB is preparing a detailed report on Leyland's investment strategy for the Government which goes beyond the hurried NEB-Leyland document prepared in early May, upon which Mr Varley based his recent decision to let the Mini programme restart, pending vital decisions of the "big spend".

The workers immediately affected are in five buildings in the Edgware district of north London. Their jobs involve clerical, accountancy, public relations, catering, merchandise and other administrative functions.

Staff at the company's gift centre and warehouses are still fully employed dealing with the flood of redemptions which followed Tesco's announcement.

A Green Shield spokesman said last night that it would be some time before a full redeployment of staff could be made since it takes six to nine months for most trading stores to find their way back to the redeployment centres, but he indicated that some further redeployments looked inevitable.

The 700 trading staff franchises held by Tesco were worth £15m to Green Shield in 1976 and their value was expected to increase to between £17m and £17.5m this year.

So far, four weeks after Tesco's withdrawal, Green Shield has managed to secure 370 new outlets and expects to bring in more.

But the revenue of the incoming business is likely to reach only half that lost with Tesco since the average earnings of each of the new outlets is much less.

Green Shield is looking for economies in other overheads as well as salaries. For instance, it is hoping its head office staff cuts will enable it to reduce the amount of space occupied at Edgware.

At the same time the company has stepped up the promotional backing it is giving to its new and potential new customers.

One of its first actions to help counter Tesco's price reduction campaign was to enable all new grocery outlets, including 100 newly recruited International Stores, to double Green Shield trading stamps for two weeks.

Grocery stores represent around 55 per cent of Green Shield's business and Tesco was by far the largest trader in stamps, accounting for about 40 per cent of the company's grocery business.

## British Steel losing £3m a week with no hope of extra state cash

By Peter Hill  
British Steel Corporation losses are running at more than £3m a week, but the state steel undertaking has been told by Whitehall that there is no possibility of a £500m cash limit being increased.

The scale of the corporation's cash crisis was spelt out by Sir Charles Villiers, the BSC chairman, yesterday, just two weeks before the corporation publishes its 1976 report, forecasting a deficit of about £100m.

Thus the BSC could be heading for its third consecutive loss-making year. Unless demand improves in the second half of the current year, losses could total up to £200m.

In 1976 the corporation had a record loss of £255m, reduced to around £100m in the last financial year. But the clear implication of Sir Charles's address to the annual conference of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen yesterday was that the corporation was losing money at an absolutely unacceptable rate, substantially worse than last year.

He stressed that the losses and overhead costs encompassing social interest and investment costs would have to be covered by the £500m agreed with the Government. This figure could not be exceeded—it represented 10 per cent of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement—and the ceiling had been confirmed recently.

In recent talks with ministers and Department of Industry officials Sir Charles drew attention to the worsening position as a result of the deepening world steel crisis.

"The trouble is due to weak demand for our products, weak prices for our products, too high break-even point of our products, too low a productivity per man, too little care at our plants and too small a commitment to success", Sir Charles declared.

He pointed out that the corporation would this year be paying more than £200m in interest on loans, while a further £65m a year was being lost on plants relieved after the government-commissioned review of planned closures.

The corporation was in a tough spot, and for the moment there was no relief in sight, although some stability in prices was being arranged through the EEC Commission's anti-crisis measures. The corporation had to get down to producing iron and steel which were world-beaters.

"In recent years we have been taken to the cleaners by the competition and we let them do it to us—we practically gave them a 'dicker' to collect. Over the past few years the share was down from 70 per cent to 53 per cent at one time last year, the American market, where we used to be strong, was down from 1.4 million tonnes a year to 500,000 tonnes last year. This just won't do", Sir Charles stressed.

## Yen at 4-year peak as weak dollar hits pound

By Caroline Ashenden  
As the dollar continued its fall in the foreign exchanges yesterday, the pound was pushed down with it by official sales of sterling for dollars.

Although sterling's rate against the dollar has been held steady, its effective rate against other currencies has fallen. It now stands at \$1.0 (compared to 100 pence December 1971).

This is the lowest figure since the revaluation of the pound in 1967. The pound closed unchanged against the dollar at \$1.7403.

There was some official intervention to check the dollar's fall in Germany and other European centres yesterday. But this was not sufficient to offset the buoyant commercial selling and the dollar closed down on the London market.

Its rate against the Deutsche mark was down to 2.3125, from 2.32 at Monday's close.

The Japanese, who usually keep a firm lid on upward pressure on the yen, seem to have left it to rise unbridled yesterday. It closed at a four-year high against the dollar of 264.375.

The dollar's decline has changed the nature of the British Government's exchange rate policy. This is aimed at securing stability in the market, but the stability is in terms of dollars there is now an implied decline in sterling's value against other currencies.

The drifting dollar will bring to a head arguments about the right exchange rate policy for Britain. Some economists believe the inflationary impact of a fall in the pound's value outweighs any benefits in terms of increased competitiveness and eventually wipes these out.

But the government's policy this week suggests support for the argument that Britain's higher inflation rate is not caused primarily by exchange rate changes and must be compensated for by a drop in the pound.

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The American burden, page 21

Giving the much needed overhaul to engineering, page 21

## 96 Green Shield staff to lose jobs in cutback

By Patricia Tisdall  
Green Shield has made 96 of its 600 head office staff redundant at the start of a drive to compensate for the revenue lost when Tesco, the company's biggest customer, dropped trading stamps.

There is a strong possibility of future staff cuts in the warehouse and gift house sectors of Green Shield once the full impact of Tesco's withdrawal earlier this month has taken effect.

The workers immediately affected are in five buildings in the Edgware district of north London. Their jobs involve clerical, accountancy, public relations, catering, merchandise and other administrative functions.

Staff at the company's gift centre and warehouses are still fully employed dealing with the flood of redemptions which followed Tesco's announcement.

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A slight decline in the number of people out of work in West Germany last month was described as "disappointing" by Herr Josef Schling, the Labour Office president yesterday. The number of unemployed fell by 1.6 per cent or 15,500 to 931,000. The latest figures mean that the number out of work exceeds the total a year ago.

## Signs of accelerating money supply growth

By Derek Harris  
A government inquiry into the structure of the engineering profession and whether it meets the needs of British manufacturing industry was announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry.

It will, as expected, be chaired by Sir Monty Finlayson, the former chairman of British Steel Corporation, and starts work in the autumn. A decision has yet to be made on whether hearings will be in public.

Mr Varley said the inquiry would look at the requirements of British industry for professional and technical engineers, the extent to which those needs were being met and the use of money by engineers.

It will also look at the role of engineering institutions in education and qualification of engineers, including technicians, and assess the advantages or otherwise of bringing in statutory registration or licensing of engineers.

A study will be made of the way other industrial countries, particularly in the EEC, tackle similar problems.

The Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI), centre of two-year wrangle over its reform, believes the inquiry will not delay the Privy Council's consideration of a new CEI constitution.

Sir Charles Pringle, CEI chairman, said: "While CEI has always questioned the need for an inquiry, if it does anything to improve the public standing of engineers then it will be well worthwhile."

Two major members of CEI, the Mechanicals and Electricals, had urged an inquiry despite strong opposition from some others in the profession. Overhauling the engineers, page 21

## Engineering inquiry in autumn

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## Community will demand modified pact on fibres

Geneva, July 5.—The European Economic Community has served notice to the world's textile exporting nations that it cannot accept a simple extension of the conditions and rules which have governed the world textile trade since 1974 under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA).

The pact, which was negotiated under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, expires at the end of this year.

Mr Frans Van Thiel, the Community's special representative for the textile negotiations, told a meeting of the GATT textiles committee today that the EEC nevertheless attached great importance to the aims of the MFA, and would like to continue being part of an arrangement to regulate the textiles trade.

He said: "If the MFA were to be simply renewed in its present form and applied as in the past, a further 1,600,000 jobs—equivalent to half the present workforce—would disappear between now and 1982."—AP-Dow Jones.

Meanwhile, the group's turnover exceeded £2,000m during 1976-77, for the first time. Export sales accounted for £544m and export orders booked during the year were worth £936m, against £466m in the previous year.

Financial Editor, page 21

## GEC doubles cash balances to £470m in year

While General Electric Company's profits yesterday were in line with outside expectations at £278m, the most startling figure to emerge from the results was that the group has now accumulated £470m in cash.

This means that GEC has more than doubled its cash balances during the 12 months to March, although some indication that cash would be above £400m came at the time of the floating note issue earlier this year.

GEC's response is that it is unlikely that a major acquisition could be made in the United Kingdom without monopoly objections, and that large parts of the cash balance are represented by customer advances and the commitment to buy back the floating rate loan notes.

Although in practice the controversial NSM advertisements were approved by the Advertising Standards Authority to see if the proposal could be implemented.

Unlike those for cigarettes these advertisements could make health claims and do not have to carry a health warning. Critics argue that they could mislead smokers.

Financial Editor, page 21

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Financial Editor, page 21

## Yung Li 115,000

At £13,500 (estimated £15,000). The house has been recently redecorated and has a large garden. It is situated in a quiet residential area.

Low the markets moved  
The Times index: 185.91 +0.57  
The FT index: 451.0 +1.4

THE POUND  
Bank buys  
Australia 1.53  
Canada 1.25  
Denmark 1.03  
Finland 1.03  
France 6.49  
Germany 3.42  
Greece 6.75  
Hong Kong 8.40  
Italy 1.95  
Japan 148.00  
Netherlands 4.38  
Norway 9.39  
Portugal 67.50  
Spain 1.97  
Sweden 1.37  
Switzerland 1.34  
US 1.76  
Yugoslavia 22.00

Gold gained 50.50 an ounce to \$443.25.  
SDR is 1.7078 on Tuesday.  
SDR is 6.680528.  
Commodities: Tin prices rose sharply. Rubber 100 was at 195.0 (previous 195.9).

Reports, pages 23 and 25

## THE POUND

Bank	buys	sells
Australia	1.53	1.54
Canada	1.25	1.26
Denmark	1.03	1.04
Finland	1.03	1.04
France	6.49	6.50
Germany	3.42	3.43
Greece	6.75	6.76
Hong Kong	8.40	8.41
Italy	1.95	1.96
Japan	148.00	148.01
Netherlands	4.38	4.39
Norway	9.39	9.40
Portugal	67.50	67.51
Spain	1.97	1.98
Sweden	1.37	1.38
Switzerland	1.34	1.35
US	1.76	1.77
Yugoslavia	22.00	22.01

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by the Bank of England. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Exchange Telegraph  
Moral Box  
Rediffusion  
The 600 Group



Changing hands... the 300-roomed Carlton Tower Hotel.

## £14m Carlton Tower sale

By John Brennan  
Lex Service Group has agreed to sell the Carlton Tower Hotel to unnamed overseas buyers for £14m.

Mr Trevor Chinn, Lex's chairman, said yesterday: "We do not know who the buyers are, but he added he was fully satisfied that Proteus, the Guernsey-based company representing the buyers, had adequate finance to complete the purchase."

Mr Chinn said that Proteus was backed by "overseas people with great financial strength". He would not comment on speculation that The Carlton Tower is the latest in a string of recent luxury hotel acquisitions in London by private Arab investors.

Lex acquired the 300 room hotel for £4.5m in 1972 and its £7.5m hotel value reflects revaluations since then as well as substantial modernization. Forming part of the Cadogan Estate, The Carlton Tower is held on an historically cheap leasehold from Prudential Assurance running until 2050.

Over the past few years the hotel has been one of the group's most consistently profitable assets, contributing £17m before-tax to group profits of £7.8m last year. It is expected to make a Jubilee year profit of more than £2m with occupancy rates likely to reach into the high 80s despite room rates averaging out at £38 per person per night.

Cash from the sale is earmarked to provide additional resources for Lex's forklift truck and transport businesses as well as reducing group debts of around £44m.

A condition of the sale gives Lex a renewable 20-year management contract for the hotel worth between £500,000 and £750,000 a year, plus a substantial modernization. Mr Chinn also insisted that the hotel's staff remained on the Lex payroll.

At the same time the company has stepped up the promotional backing it is giving to its new and potential new customers.

One of its first actions to help counter Tesco's price reduction campaign was to enable all new grocery outlets, including 100 newly recruited International Stores, to double Green Shield trading stamps for two weeks.

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Chase Econometrics maintains economy has not recovered from 1974-75 recession

## Lower US growth rate of 2pc forecast

From Frank Vogt  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, July 5

Chase Econometrics Associates today predicted that the real rate of growth of the United States economy will be less than 1 per cent in the first half of next year and will amount to no more than 2 per cent for all of 1978.

This respected organization maintained in a new report that the economy had not really recovered from the 1974-75 recession and "we see a slowdown next year as the economy simply runs out of steam".

American economists are now sharply divided about the outlook and, while experts on Wall Street share the pessimism expressed by Chase Econometrics, it would appear that the majority of economists agree with the experts at Mellon Bank, who noted in a new report today that the economic "expansion is very much alive and happily free of speculative excesses

and imbalances. The economy remains firmly established on a moderate growth track."

Chase Econometrics notes that employment gains have slowed in the past two months to half the rate seen earlier in the year, and that with the labour force expanding by 2,400,000 a year it is unlikely that there will be any improvement in the rest of the year in the current 6.9 per cent jobless level.

Chase predicts that the failure to cut further the unemployment total will contribute towards a weakening of consumer and business confidence which will lead to a general slowing in economic activity.

These forecasters believe the rate of increase in the consumer price index will slow from the 10 per cent annual rate for the first third of this year to about a 7 per cent rate for the remainder of the year, but that a more significant cut, as predicted by the Carter Administration, will not emerge. Some increase in food prices is predicted for coming months now that

grain prices have fallen below support levels and now that cattle and vegetable and fruit produce supplies are below comparative 1976 levels.

Prices of metals and of building materials are seen as continuing the fairly sharp rate of increases seen in recent months.

There is also no moderation seen in wage rate gains, with wages having increased at an annual rate of 8.8 per cent so far this year, compared to a 6.5 per cent advance in the comparative period a year earlier.

Capital goods demand has been weak so far this year, and Chase sees no improvement in the months ahead. It argues that business confidence is likely to be dampened by the continuation of high rates of unemployment and inflation, and by possible declines in general consumer confidence.

A surprisingly good outlook is forecast, however, for the general construction sector.

Chase does not discuss the implications of recent significant rises in business loan demand, which numerous

economists maintain are clear evidence of mounting business plant and equipment investment plans.

The strength of business loan demand is highlighted by a new report by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York which shows that commercial paper outstanding rose in May by \$7.2bn (about £418m) to a record total of \$57,434m.

A number of economists point out that new car demand is exceptionally strong, and that this indicates a distinctly improved level of consumer confidence.

Chase Econometrics sharply disagrees with this view. It states that consumers are engaging in advance purchases because of the expected smaller size of new 1978 model cars and because of fears of higher prices on next season's models.

Chase suggests that what is happening in the car market now closely matches the strong demand pattern seen in 1973 and 1974 with disastrous results to car sales in late 1974, 1975 and much of 1976.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## An index-linked incentive plan for pay settlements below 10 per cent

From Mr P. R. G. Legard

Sir, I should like to suggest a possible way out of the present impasse on incomes policy. I assume there is no alternative to more or less free collective bargaining. And in this context workers which they consider high enough to maintain their living standards. If they think prices will rise by 20 per cent, as many now do, they will insist on 20 per cent wage settlements. It is no good the Government telling them that their price forecasts are wrong, since the Government's own price forecasts have so often gone awry. People feel they have been cheated once and they do not intend to be cheated again.

So the only way to stop excessive wage settlements is to offer some other way of guaranteeing living standards, that is independent of what happens to prices. This means indexation. General indexation may not deter high settlements, given the fall in living standards which has already occurred.

Some further incentive must, therefore, be provided for unions to reach modest settlements. The answer is to confine indexation to those who settle

for less than 10 per cent. I therefore suggest the following agreement between the Government and the TUC:

1. Any group of workers settling for less than 10 per cent should receive a guarantee that their real wage will never fall below its level prior to the settlement. Thus, if a group settled for 8 per cent, and prices subsequently rose by 6 per cent, the workers would thereafter receive a 1 per cent increase in wages for every further 1 per cent increase in prices.

2. Income tax allowances would be increased in proportion to retail prices.

What would be the likely outcome of this? The climate of inflationary expectations would be changed overnight, as it was by the 16 a week pay policy. Most unions would, I believe, settle for the 10 per cent figure or possibly lower. A few might choose higher, unindexed settlements, but it would be risky for them, and they might meet with considerable employer resistance in the new climate of price expectations.

The idea is not of course unlike the "basic" threshold, which was a disaster. But it is difficult to imagine two more

different situations than the October 1973 and July 1974. We are now in a deep depression rather than at the peak of a boom. There are no major wage hikes about making for price increases. There is a excess demand at home, an increase in import prices such as occurred in 1973-74 are out of the question. Moreover, real wages will soon be very low relative to trend, while the high in October 1973. This is exactly the time to establish an indexed floor for real wages.

In my view this scheme offers the best hope in an otherwise alarming situation. Workers are going to insist on guarantees for their living standards and this is not done by indexation. They are going to go for very high settlements. The way to stop this is by offering indexation, provided people settle for less than 10 per cent.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD LAYARD,  
Reader in the Economics  
Labour,  
The London School of  
Economics and Political  
Science,  
Houghton Street,  
London WC2A 2AE,  
July 5.

## £28m EEC loan for iron ore project

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

Construction of an iron ore direct reduction plant in the North-east by a consortium of British and Continental steel-making companies is to be financed partly by a substantial loan from the EEC.

The Brussels Commission announced yesterday that it has approved a £28m loan to North Sea Iron towards the £90m cost of the plant, which will be located at Jarrow. The money is being made available through provisions in the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty and the project will also qualify for United Kingdom Government aid.

Companies involved in the project formally launched the scheme last March after three years of discussions and preliminary planning. The consortium is led by Shearson Steel, a Canadian-owned steel-making company which established the first "mini-steel mill" in the United Kingdom.

Direct reduction of iron ore enables it to be reduced into pellets or briquettes form which can then be used as an alternative raw material to scrap for feeding into electric arc steelmaking furnaces. The plant will be built on a 50-acre site and have an annual capacity of 800,000 tonnes.

Other partners in the consortium include Consolidated Gold Fields and its subsidiary, Tennant Trading, as well as Norwegian-owned Mauchester Steel, Italy's Fiat-Teksid and Tube Investments.

## Report calls for overhaul of industrial design teaching

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent

In its continuing campaign to improve the standards of British engineering products, the Design Council has published a report which calls for a thorough overhaul of the way in which "industrial design" is taught at all levels.

In this context "industrial" design is concerned with aspects of design such as appearance, ergonomics, safety and convenience, as distinct from the basic engineering design process.

In many of its recommendations the report emphasizes the need for closer, continuing contact between the world of design education and industry itself.

The report was written by a subcommittee chaired by Mr David Carter, a design consultant and a joint deputy chairman of the Design Council. It

complements a similar report on engineering design education which appeared last year under the chairmanship of Dr A. E. Moulton.

A "sympathetic relationship" between industrial designers and engineering designers is essential to successful product design, the report notes.

"While it can be convincingly demonstrated that industrial design at its best makes an important contribution to the design of engineering products, some sections of industry have still to be convinced that it is more than just an optional extra."

In secondary schools, the report says, design should form part of general education, and where appropriate provide a basis for career preparation. A-level courses in design should be developed as an option for pupils who combined creative talent and sensitivity with in-

tellectual ability, and who wished to pursue design as a career, whether in architecture, town planning, engineering, industrial design, or whatever.

One-year foundation courses in art and design should be replaced to give a greater emphasis to design, the report says. New vocational courses should be set up to meet the need for industrial design technicians.

At degree-course level, courses in industrial design should provide a broad education, but both students and teachers should have an increased awareness of the requirements of industry. Educational establishments should ensure that all those responsible for teaching design keep in close contact with industry.

"Industrial design education in the United Kingdom," published by the Design Council, 50p.

## Search for formula on UK-French offshore line

The decision of the international court of inquiry into a dispute between England and France over the offshore oil median line in the Western Approaches and English Channel should be announced within the next two weeks.

At stake are several large oil fields that could be found in promising geological structures lying in the area of the Western Approaches claimed by both countries.

Both countries hope the inquiry will delineate the median line from the present agreed point in the middle of the English Channel to the edge of the continental shelf.

However, it is possible that it will spell out of existence the deciding of the line and leave the two contestants to fix the boundary themselves in another round of negotiations.

Britain and France are pledged to accept the ruling of the mediator regardless of their decision. Drilling on the French side of the new line could take place before the end of the summer, but on the British side the area will not be fully explored until the next round of licences are distributed, probably next year.

Jobless rate rises in Japan

The May jobless rate stood at 2.0 per cent, up from 1.9 per cent in the prior month but unchanged from 2.0 per cent in May a year ago.

Fall in HP car sales

Motor vehicles hire purchase contracts fell last month to 103,701 compared with 116,836 in May and 115,501 a year earlier, according to Hire Purchase Information. New cars bought on hire purchase totalled 19,892 against almost 25,000 in June last year, while contracts on used cars dropped by about 7,000 to 54,792.

## Industrial tribunals: injustice at work in settling redundancy claims

From Mr A. C. Taylor

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr J. I. Karer (July 1), has indicated a very real injustice in the redundancy payment system under the Redundancy Payments Act.

I have recently had an even more extreme case where, when we were acting for the employer, the employee brought a case in the industrial tribunal for redundancy payment. After day's hearing, the case was adjourned for want of time and before the commencement of the second day's hearing, the parties agreed a settlement which was substantially less than the full amount which the employee would have recovered had the tribunal found in his favour. This settlement was incorporated in a formal decision given by the chairman of the tribunal.

If there had been a full redundancy payment the Department of Employment would have paid 50 per cent to the employer. Because the claim

was settled for substantially less than the full redundancy payment, the Department of Employment refused to pay anything on the basis that the payment agreed was not a "redundancy payment" as defined by the Redundancy Payments Act.

This is a clear disincentive to the parties to resolve their differences by way of settlement as is the normal practice in court proceedings. There are obvious advantages to everybody in leaving the parties free to negotiate a settlement and I am afraid that this is a clear example of how the practice of tribunals differs from the practice of the courts in the disadvantage of those appearing at tribunals.

Yours faithfully,  
A. C. TAYLOR,  
Samuel Phillips & Company,  
86 Pigott Street,  
Newcastle upon Tyne,  
NE1 6SR,  
July 1.

Insuring against owl damage

From Mr P. Owen

Sir, We had the misfortune to have two owls down our sitting room chimney. One unfortunately was dead, having been burned, the other very much alive, had presumably been looking for its mate.

There were some old bird droppings all over the room and nearly every ornament had been knocked down and many broken or cracked. When claiming on our Lloyd's householders insurance we were told we only insured for impact by vehicle, or animal, and, as owl

was not an animal and we were given an ex-gratia payment of less than half the claim.

I feel that anyone with a valuable collection of porcelain or pottery would be well advised to have the police alerted. Insurance premiums are high and there are always seems to be a reason for not paying out claims in full.

Yours truly,  
PETER OWEN,  
Bramfield Bury,  
Hereford,  
June 15.

## Infallible Mint?

From Mr Peter Booth

Sir, We know about Papi's fallibility, but does something similar apply to the Royal Mint?

I have before me a postcard regretting a delay in fulfilling an order for jubilee proof crowns.

It is signed D. M. Jones, Managing Director, Bureau Can one argue the spelling of such an authority?

Incidentally, it reminds me of graffiti on a road sign: "Welcome to Llanfairpwll under which someone had written: 'The hole with the m in it'."

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BOOTH,  
Managing Director,  
R. Perry & Company,  
90 Church Street,  
Birkenhead L41 5SQ,  
June 27.

## Credit cards

From Mr C. G. Woolfen

Sir, Building societies could do with a little of the clearing banks' expertise in maintaining good public relations. It is surprising that when falling interest rates have obliged the former to reduce their rate in successive months, there seems to be no public or government pressure on the

Boards of directors or Access credit schemes, whose average charge of 2 per cent per month on outstanding balances should surely now return to the original 1 per cent or less.

Yours faithfully,  
C. G. WOOLFEN,  
French Department,  
University of Glasgow,  
Glasgow G12 8QQ,  
July 1.

## Economist sees need for tripartite council to run economy

By Caroline Atkinson

A new social contract is called for today by Mr Nicholas Bosanquet, economist. Unions, Government and, to a lesser extent, business should manage the economy jointly, he says in a pamphlet published by the Fabian Society.

His demands should be synchronized and agreed in a tripartite council. This would also meet to decide on an annual budget, and on the outlook for

the economy.

Mr Bosanquet argues that the Government's present strategy for Britain's recovery will not succeed in solving the problems of high inflation and slow growth.

This strategy assumes that increased investment and exports will be the engines of growth in the next few years. Public and private consumption are both being restricted in an attempt to bring down inflation

and leave room for investment and exports.

The author does not believe, however, that a sufficient boost will come from these sources to provide long-term growth.

Neither the industrial strategy nor the benefits of North Sea oil will improve Britain's industrial performance radically, he argues.

The power of the unions in Britain should be openly recognized, Mr Bosanquet suggests,

and tied to responsibility for managing the economy.

A tripartite council, with dominant union representation, should take the power to make economic policy from the Chancellor and deliver it to a joint commission composed of unions, Confederation of British Industry and Government.

"Economic strategy: a new social contract," by Nicholas Bosanquet, Fabian research series 333, 75p.

## The year's results

Under conditions which were by no means favourable to growth, our television business and its related activities made satisfactory progress. Unfortunately, results in other directions have failed to come up to expectations and we have consequently been able to show only a slight improvement in the profits of the Company for the year. There was a reduction in the contribution from our Rediffusion companies instead of the expected improvement. The television station in Hong Kong and the Delta-Benco manufacturing company in Canada have again shown losses. These, and losses by certain associated companies, are mainly responsible for the Group's high tax charge, because we cannot offset these losses against other profits in the Group.

Television business in the U.K.

This, our principal activity, produced £1.4 million more trading profit than last year - an 11% increase.

The popularity of rental as a means of acquiring colour television became firmly re-established during the year, a trend which was encouraged by freedom from Government changes.

Our licensing arrangements with Barlows of South Africa continued to operate satisfactorily and have provided substantial royalties.

Doric Radio, which supplies sets to traders outside the Group, performed reasonably well, being particularly successful in exports.

We now have more colour television subscribers renting serial sets than cable sets, although the numbers of both showed a satisfactory increase over the year. We wish we were allowed to give our cable subscribers something extra, in the shape of an interesting additional programme, completely different in its nature from the programmes which the broadcasters can provide. The Annual Committee recommended that a Local Broadcasting Authority should be responsible for all further experiments, in organisation or

in finance, in local cable services. The Committee envisages the possibility of existing cable networks providing new and additional programme services, but unfortunately - and we think illogically - only with services of a strictly local character. It seems a pity to restrict developments to those which, because they will need public finance, may have to wait for better times, and to reject those which could be self-supporting. But some members of the Committee did not rule out the possibility of some pay-TV 'experiments' under the Local Broadcasting Authority.

The Annual Report has now been debated in Parliament. In both Houses there have been expressions of support, from among all parties, for more attention to be paid to the potentialities of cable and pay-television. Rediffusion was invited to submit its comments to the Home Office and has put forward reasoned and constructive suggestions.

We have a 17 1/2% interest in Capital Radio, which earned a good profit for its year to 30th September 1976.

Electronic capital equipment: Redifon

We had expected further improvement from Redifon's United Kingdom companies but they produced nearly a million pounds less profit than they did last year.

Redifon Computers, the only one of the Redifon companies to surpass its achievement of the previous year, did extremely well, making increased profit in both its divisions - the Computer Division and the Redifon Systems Simulation Division.

Redifon Flight Simulation would also have done well, but for a serious overspend on a major contract. This financial setback was of a kind that has to be accepted, once in a while in this type of business. The outlook for the company remains very good. Its international standing has never been higher and it has an excellent volume of orders in hand.

The anticipated recovery by Redifon Telecommunications has not yet taken place. It has been necessary to undertake a further re-organisation of that company.

## Music services

The Redifon background music service, Europe's largest and now represented in 70 countries around the world, achieved the highest profit of its 20 years' history - nearly half of it being earned overseas.

Associated companies

Rediffusion Television made greater profits, primarily because Thames Television, in which it has a 50% financial interest, earned more revenue from advertisers.

Rediffusion Holdings inevitably showed a considerable loss, due to the heavy interest charges incurred by Wembley Stadium in financing its building operations, which are now substantially complete. The office block has been satisfactorily let and the recently-opened Wembley Conference Centre, has already been the venue for many events.

Overseas operations

In Hong Kong during the past year, total television advertising revenue increased by about 50%. Rediffusion Television of Hong Kong (RTV), in which we have a 64% shareholding, increased its own revenue by a similar factor. Unfortunately the operating costs of the television industry in Hong Kong continued to rise. As a result, despite substantially improved revenue, RTV made an operating loss almost as large as the previous year's. The sterling equivalent included in our Group accounts is greater than last year's, due to a weakening of the pound against the Hong Kong dollar.

We responded to RTV's need for further money, as did most of our local shareholders. We remain confident that RTV has the best management of the Hong Kong TV stations and that the growth in Hong Kong's prosperity continues to offer RTV the prospect of a profitable share of its market.

Our other operations in Hong Kong maintained their position.

Our operations in Malaysia are doing well and have improved upon the previous year's

profit. Our Singapore company also improved upon its performance of the previous year.

In Trinidad, our radio broadcasting station showed an increase in profit. The publicly-owned television service in Trinidad began colour transmissions, and our television set business has already started to benefit from this. Barbados Rediffusion Service showed a small increase in profit. In Guyana our station, Radio Demerara, has done well to show some increase in profit under adverse conditions. The results of Radio Jamaica were affected by the economic situation there. Discussions have been initiated by the Government with a view to the public acquisition of a majority shareholding in the station.

Delta-Benco-Cascade, our Canadian company which makes cable-television equipment, continued to disappoint after another most difficult year.

In South Africa Telarama-Rediffusion, the television set marketing business in which we have a 24 1/2% interest is moving slowly towards profitability. The television set market has been slack in South Africa ever since the short-lived initial boom in the latter part of 1975.

The outlook

The results we are presenting now are a disappointment. I would have liked to take the edge off that disappointment by forecasting substantially better profits for the current year and, as far as our U.K. operations are concerned, I believe they will be achieved. But overseas, problems besetting our television broadcasting business in Hong Kong have still to be solved and the outlook is overshadowed by continuing losses there and, on a smaller scale, in Canada. In view of this, I cannot forecast, overall, more than a modest improvement in profit.

A copy of the Accounts containing the Chairman's Review can be obtained in application to The Secretary - (C), Cannon House, Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4LS

REDIFFUSION

OFFICE















## Appointments Vacant also on page 12

## Graduating 1977?

Pirelli Limited are recruiting a few graduate trainees to start in September, 1977 and therefore invite applications from men and women graduates from their University this Summer.

We make tyres, footwear and seating suspensions in factories at Burton on Trent and Carlisle, the home base for training being Burton.

Our approach to graduate trainees cannot be unusual. We recognise that graduates cannot be expected to come into industry with a clear idea of what they will be good at. So over twelve months our training programme gives them working experience in three major functions of the company.

Only after this basic training do graduates have to decide what sort of career opening suits them best.

We are interested in recruiting those who have achieved something worthwhile at school, university or in any other environment - and who realise that graduates, like anyone else, have to earn success in business. For such people we can provide opportunities for a satisfying and rewarding career.

For application form please write to: P. S. Burton, Staff Training Manager, Pirelli Limited, Derby Road, Burton on Trent, DE13 0BH.

## PIRELLI

## SALES ADMINISTRATION

## STEEL TUBES AND PIPES—London Based

The wholly owned distributors of a major EEC steel group require the following personnel to support its sales force:

- 1. CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR**  
The person required will replace the existing member of our staff who is retiring after a long period of training and working with the company. The duties will be to supervise the sales force, to ensure that the sales force is fully trained and to ensure that the sales force is fully motivated. The duties will be to supervise the sales force, to ensure that the sales force is fully trained and to ensure that the sales force is fully motivated. The duties will be to supervise the sales force, to ensure that the sales force is fully trained and to ensure that the sales force is fully motivated.
- 2. CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK**  
The person required will provide the day-to-day services of customers' orders from inception to delivery, also involved with the sales force. The duties will be to provide the day-to-day services of customers' orders from inception to delivery, also involved with the sales force. The duties will be to provide the day-to-day services of customers' orders from inception to delivery, also involved with the sales force.

Both positions are suitable for our discretionary bonus scheme. Salary and L.V. holidays are as per N.P.A. Please apply to: MARKETING MANAGER, BOX 1076 J, THE TIMES.

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE

to run our new Adult Language Training Centre in London

This involves securing contracts with companies and ensuring the efficient internal functioning of the Centre. The successful person will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Centre, including the recruitment and training of staff, the management of the Centre's finances, and the maintenance of the Centre's facilities. The successful person will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Centre, including the recruitment and training of staff, the management of the Centre's finances, and the maintenance of the Centre's facilities.

MEDITERRANEAN/ATLANTIC ISLANDS  
ENGINEER OR ENGINEER/MATE

for permanent position aboard unique 25 metre aux. gear rigged ketch cruising mainly Mediterranean/Atlantic Islands.

This position requires a serious person qualified to assume full responsibility in case of Captain's absence.

Apply in writing, including c.v., full particulars and recent photo to: Midgley, 21 Hay's Mews, London, W.1.

## Recruitment Executive

A leading Recruitment Agency with an excellent reputation for handling executive appointments, now plan further expansion. As a result, we seek a well-qualified person, aged 25-35, to take full responsibility for client presentations, writing copy for advertisements, handling responses, interviewing and shortlisting of candidates. A sound commercial background combined with a strong and energetic personality are essential requirements. Previous experience of selling recruitment advertising would be a distinct advantage. This is a very demanding position with excellent remuneration for a high calibre, ambitious person.

For full details ring COLIN HUSH on 01-437 5811

## GENERAL VACANCIES

## SUCCESSION REQUIRED

We are a leading Recruitment Agency based in Central London and due to expansion we currently require additional Recruitment Executives. These are challenging and demanding positions with excellent remuneration.

If you are aged 25-35 and have determination, ambition and dynamism

Ring COLIN HUSH on

01-437 5811 for full details

## RESERVATIONS/RECEPTIONIST

Black Hotel, S.W.7. Experienced hotel receptionist, able to come with own car, excellent salary, 25-35, 40 hrs. week, 9.30-5.30. Salary £30 p.w. plus comm. Ring Mr. Buck or Hazel 01-370 6701

## PERSONNEL OFFICER

£4,500 + CAR

Wanted immediately. Must have 2 M. and 10 years experience in all aspects of personnel work. Full time, 9-5, 40 hrs. week. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus comm. Ring Mr. Buck or Hazel 01-370 6701

## INSTRUCTIONS required for coming

to the office. Please write to: Mr. Buck or Hazel 01-370 6701

## VACANCIES

Wanted immediately. Must have 2 M. and 10 years experience in all aspects of personnel work. Full time, 9-5, 40 hrs. week. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus comm. Ring Mr. Buck or Hazel 01-370 6701

## SALES AND MARKETING

Wanted immediately. Must have 2 M. and 10 years experience in all aspects of personnel work. Full time, 9-5, 40 hrs. week. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus comm. Ring Mr. Buck or Hazel 01-370 6701

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## SALES AND MARKETING

## SALES PERSON

A Canadian Company offering a service to businesses in the North-East and South-East of England. A basic salary and commission are offered. For further information telephone 01-777 8721 NOW

The Sales Manager, 01-777 8721 NOW

## PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

## University of Bristol

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  
SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS

Overseas students for research leading to the Ph.D. degree in the following subjects:

1. Aeronautical design of subsonic and supersonic aircraft.
2. Design criteria for sea-bed protection.
3. Movement of ships in shallow water.
4. Problems of ship stability.
5. Problems of ship stability.
6. Problems of ship stability.

The last two topics in the above list are available only to students who are already in the first three years of their undergraduate studies.

Applications should be sent to the Director of the Science Research Council, University of Bristol, 111, St. James's Place, London, W.1.

## Stanford High School

## APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

Applications are invited for the post of Head of the Stanford High School for Girls from the 1st September, 1977. The successful candidate will be responsible for the general management of the school and for the academic and extra-curricular activities.

The school is a day school for girls, aged 11 to 18, with a total of 150 pupils. It is situated in the heart of the City of London.

Applications should be sent to the Director of the Science Research Council, University of Bristol, 111, St. James's Place, London, W.1.

## N.P.A. TEACHERS required

for the post of Science Teacher. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of Science to pupils aged 11 to 18.

Applications should be sent to the Director of the Science Research Council, University of Bristol, 111, St. James's Place, London, W.1.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Engineering in the van as Ropner puts on steam

By Alison Mitchell

An almost doubled contribution from the engineering division helped Ropner Holdings surge ahead to record pre-tax profits of £2.8m for the year to March 31 last. This shows a 55 per cent increase over the previous 12 months. Turnover rose by around a third, from £7.8m to £10.4m.

After pushing ahead at half-way, the engineering side, which takes in Hozelock garden equipment and Airtach, continued along the rising trend. Sales were up 44 per cent for the year as a whole due to improved production and an increase in exports. Overseas markets now account for around half of the division's profits.

Last year the group spent £350,000 on expanding plant and equipment and Mr John Baxter, finance director, looks to further growth on this side of the business. At present much of the plant, particularly at Hozelock, is running at full capacity.

Shipping increased its contribution with all four vessels now running on charters—though that of the Stonepool, laid up for part of last year, could end in September.

Yesterday the group took delivery of a new £9.6m bulk carrier which has been chartered to British Steel for the next 15 years. Interest payable on the loan while the ship was under construction sucked £74,000 from profits and the vessel is not expected to contribute much in the coming year, with profits mainly offset by increased interest charges.

However, if the option clause, written into the Stonepool's current charter, is taken up in September, Mr Baxter expects to see profits from this division increase in the current year.

Ropner's insurance profits, which have been more than doubled, are expected to provide a handy bonus for this division.

However, the one low card in the pack continues to be property development and finance. Half-time losses of £53,000 at Greystown Property have been turned into a pre-tax profit of £14,000 but this compares with a previous surplus of £82,000.

## Iran thrust helps offset flat UK construction at Bath &amp; Portland

By Ray Maughan

The United Kingdom construction market is flat, so any consideration of Bath & Portland Group rests on its success overseas. But this, perhaps, ignores the resilience of the minerals division, the recovery prospects in chemicals and the quiet growth in the engineering subsidiaries.

However, the interim pre-tax profits rise from £1.08m to £1.88m, owing much to the upsurge in overseas construction earnings. Iran plays by far the biggest part in this and can account for about two-thirds of the first-time interim contribution of £943,000 from activities abroad.

Iran has been the largest source of growth but, at the same time, the major source of working capital requirements. The contract, which now takes in the film Chuzarg bridge project, has been extended by six months, with full agreement of all parties, for completion by December 1978.

Bath & Portland is thoroughly established in Iran. Any future contracts, says Sir Kenneth Selby, chairman, will be larger profit earners now that the group has established its presence.

With its resources tied up on the existing Iran work, the group is probably unable to take on new work of such size for the next six months but, negotiations for new Iran contracts are in progress and the shares can expect a substantial rise if Sir Kenneth is in a position to announce another major contract in the new year.

The UK construction market is, of course, weak and weakening. Turnover in this area dropped by £3m to £8.76m, but the minerals division, heavily dependent on construction through its quarrying activities, prospered through an increase in work for smaller-sized Government and local authority work—a trend which the board is confident will be sustained. Minerals contribution grew from £315,000 to £505,000. Chemicals remain a problem

as the division remains undercapitalized but the board hopes that the completion of capital spending in this area by September will wipe out losses of around £320,000 in the full year to end-October next. The deficit at the halfway mark reached £160,000.

Engineering is gaining from the high degree of development in its quiet way this side has reached number two position in divisional importance with a profit rise from £315,000 to £536,000.

Agricultural activities, where the group manufactures phosphate and potash for farmers, has gone through a difficult patch through low demand and the consequent under-margin prices. Profits dipped from £32,000 to £310,000. But hopes are high that more realistic prices will be introduced this autumn.

With a same again second half, profits for the full year are likely to hit over £4m against £2.5m. The shares in response climbed 4p to 55p.

## Lincroft Kilgour to keep up 47 pc interim upswing

Lincroft Kilgour, the men's wear manufacturer and textile group, has managed a 47 per cent increase in trading profit to £359,000 for the half year to March 31. This improvement was achieved on turnover up 23 per cent to £5.9m. Pre-tax profits rose from £365,000 compared with £305,000.

Meanwhile it is expected that the improvement in sales achieved in the first six months will continue for the remainder of the year. So full-time results year should exceed those of last year in spite of the fact that a material exchange profit, which amounted to £158,000 in 1976-77, is unlikely to be repeated. It pays an interim dividend of 5p gross against 1.6p.

Barclays' N Sea oil lending at £375m

The Barclays Group has lending commitments to North Sea oil projects totalling £375m and expects this figure to continue to rise. Its commitment is spread right across the area, but broadly represents the investment required to develop four to five million tons a year of North Sea production, Mr Peter Lunn, a general manager of Barclays Bank International, writes.

Yearling bond rate drops to 9½ pc

The coupon on local authority bonds dropped this week to 9½ per cent, compared with 10 per cent last week. The issue price is 99-15/16 per cent against 100. Those borrowing from the issue are Bolton, Sunderland, Kingston Upon Hull, Hampshire, and Strathclyde. Glasgow is borrowing £2m. Longer term loans include Burnley issuing £2m, 13 per cent, 1987.

McKechnie Bros plan £4m 'rights'

As well as confirming that it is well on course for record results for the year to July 31, McKechnie Brothers says that a £4.12m rights issue is on the way. The terms are one-for-six at 68p, which compares with a market price for this non-ferrous metals and chemicals group of 52½p—a rise of 11p on news of the issue. Underwriting has been completed by Barings. Holders of the 1994-99 loan stock will receive stock in the same proportion.

The rights issue has cleared the way for a rise in dividend from 6p to 7.5p gross for the year while Mr Kenneth Leach, the chairman, gives a more precise forecast of the year's results than was possible at half time.

Over the first-half, profits jumped from £4.9m to £8.3m and the group hoped to maintain these levels for the second half. In the event, a weakness in demand for some group products and the effects of an industrial dispute—now resolved—mean that the group did not do quite that well. Nonetheless, pre-tax profits are expected to reach £15.6m, against £12.3m while earnings should reach £6.1m compared with £4.4m.

Car Am International, the Canadian associate of Capper Neill International, has won a contract worth \$8m (about £4.4m) for the mechanical and electrical installation of an irrigation scheme and sugar complex on the Ivory Coast. It is Capper Neill's second sugar refinery contract to be won in Africa this year.

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## Volkswagen to pay a bit more

From Peter Norman

Boon, July 5

Herb Rott-Schmuckler, chief executive of Volkswagen, has indicated that the V.W. German motor group will raise its dividend this year. It is 10 per cent for



[illegible]



5-Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

10/10/19



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Please apply in writing to: The Wallace Foundation, 175, Regent Street, London W1B 4EJ. Tel: 01-477 2477, ext 332.

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ALSO ON PAGE 29

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